

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2007

# The Whole Truth

The Official Magazine of the Church Of God In Christ, INC.

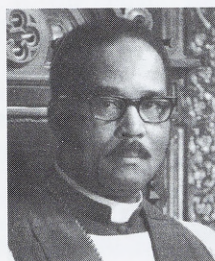


**FOUNDER**

Bishop C.H. Mason  
1907 - 1961



Bishop O.T. Jones  
1962 - 1968



Bishop J.O. Patterson  
1968 - 1989



Bishop L.H. Ford  
1990 - 1995



Bishop C.D. Owens  
1995 - 2000



Bishop G.E. Patterson  
2000 - 2007



Bishop C.E. Blake  
2007 - Present

Celebrating A Glorious Past • Embracing A Promising Future





# The Whole Truth

The Official Magazine of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

## MISSION

It is the mission of *The Whole Truth* magazine to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate, and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of COGIC members; and literary contributions by COGIC members.

*The Whole Truth* shall endeavor to effect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resources of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.

## THE LEGACY CONTINUES: PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

*The Whole Truth* is the official news source for the more than 5 million members of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. The historically acclaimed Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founded the Church Of God In Christ in 1897; and since its inception the predominately Black body has impacted all segments of Christendom throughout the world. *The Whole Truth* can trace its existence to the 1900s when the news journal reported on various social and spiritual issues, and the saints have embraced the publication as their official news source from that point in history.

If you are a member in good standing with the Church Of God In Christ, but do not consider yourself a professional writer, or if you are a journalist who meets that same criteria, *The Whole Truth's* editorial staff would like to hear from you. It would be an honor to report the latest newsworthy events concerning your church, district, and jurisdiction. Let your brothers and sisters in the Lord rejoice, praise, and pray with you as they read about achievements, breakthroughs, current events, conventions, home-going celebrations, weddings, etc.

Please be advised that all articles, related resource information, and photos are placed in *The Whole Truth's* archives and will not be returned. Additionally, the editorial staff at *The Whole Truth* reserves the right to reject, edit, and rewrite all submittals.

You may send your articles, news updates, and photos to *The Whole Truth*, Attention: Editor-In-Chief, 2500 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38114.





# About Presiding Bishop Charles Edward Blake, Sr.

## A PROFILE IN COURAGE

The Bishop Charles E. Blake serves as the Seventh Presiding Bishop of the six million member Church Of God In Christ, one of our world's largest denominations. For six years, Bishop Blake served with distinction and loyalty as the First Assistant Presiding Bishop to the late Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson. He also serves as the Jurisdictional Prelate of the First Jurisdiction of Southern California comprised of more than 250 churches.



He is the pastor of West Angeles Church Of God in Christ with a membership of over 24,000. West Angeles is deeply involved in providing not only for the spiritual life of its people, but also it provides more than 80 programs for the psycho-

logical, social, and economic enhancement of the community.

As founder and CEO of Save Africa's Children, Bishop Blake oversees the support of more than 100 thousand children, in 340 orphan care programs, throughout more than 23 nations on the continent of Africa.

Bishop Blake was the founding Chairman of the Board of Directors for C.H. Mason Theological Seminary. He has served as an Executive Committee member on the Board of Directors of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary. He has served as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Oral Roberts University, and as a mem-



ber of the Board of Directors of the International Charismatic Bible Ministries. In 2006 he served on the Los Angeles Board of the Azusa Centennial Celebration.

Bishop Blake has also formerly served as an Advisory Committee Member of the Pentecostal World Conference. He serves as the Chairman and Founder of the Los Angeles Ecumenical Congress (LAEC), an interdenominational coalition of religious leaders and pastors. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Religious Advisory Committee.

Bishop Blake has received numerous awards, commendations and accolades. A few include: April 2007, the Distinguished Leadership Award presented by the African Presidential Archives and Research Center at Boston University, the 2006 Trumpet Award, the Salvation Army's William Booth Award, the Greenlining Institute's Big Heart Award, and the designated recipient of the L.A. Urban League's Whitney M. Young Award for the year 2000. In 2003, Bishop Blake was awarded the Harvard Foundation Humanitarian Medal for his work with Save Africa's Children and its mission to support orphanages throughout that continent. February 5, 2004 was designated as "Bishop Charles E. Blake Day" by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Bishop Blake is married to Mae Lawrence Blake. They have three children—Kimberly Blake Ludlow, Charles E. II, and Lawrence; two daughters-in-law—Jeanine and DeAndra, one son-in-law—Martin; and eight grandchildren.

Since April 2007, Bishop Blake has moved very swiftly to fill the void of leadership left by the beloved Bishop Gilbert Patterson, who died last March. Since April 2007, the Presiding Bishop has instituted measures to secure and centralize the financial systems of the Church. Since May, a summit of the denomination's leadership has convened in Los Angeles, Detroit, and Memphis to encourage an inclusive environment through which the Church might begin forecasting the direction the Church ought to take for the next 25 years. In the midst of a flurry of business activity, he has found time to visit three nations outside of the United States, meeting with well over 100 denomination pastors in South America, Malawi, and South Africa. It was a first, ever, visit by the denomination's Presiding Bishop to the nation of Belize, South America and for Malawi, Africa. ☛

*Jesus, everyday, the word of Him calling,  
the gift of God working, everywhere He's calling  
giving us to come and see the word  
of His wonders here with these.*

*Heal the sick ones and give these saying Yes, to God.  
I will Lord, I will Lord, I will glorify your name,  
I, will say I will.*

*The mind of God in Christ,  
the Word of God in Christ,  
the wisdom of God In Christ  
confirming His Word here.*

*Woman, Jesus deliver you, cast the devil out!  
Heal the sick everywhere.  
Heal here, heal everywhere.  
Heal! Heal today!*

*The Word of your wonder, heal!  
The Word of your will, heal!*

*The gift of your name cast out devils.*

*The everywhere of God!  
The wonder of Him here today.*

*Jesus here and everywhere!*

A PRAYER BY  
**Bishop Charles Harrison Mason**

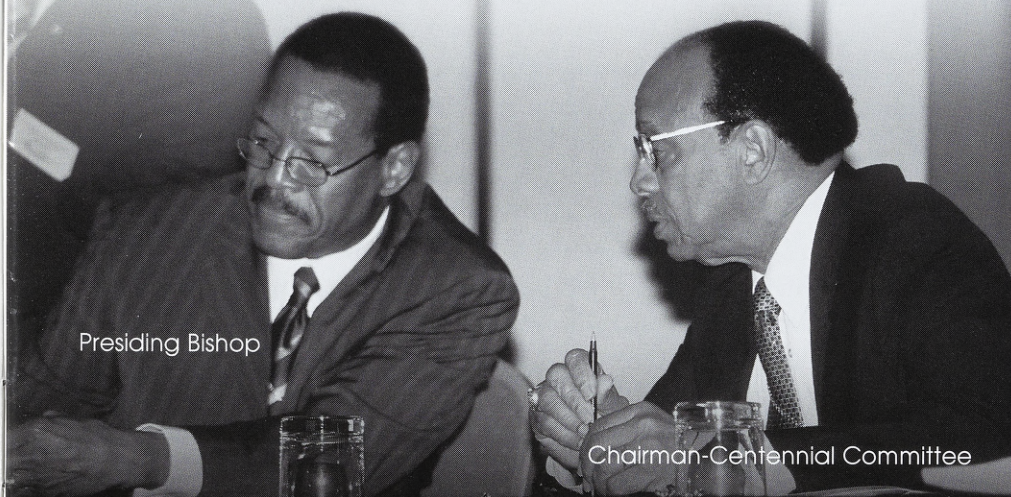




# The Whole Truth

## contents

- 1 About Presiding Bishop Charles Edward Blake, Sr.
- 4 Joel Lyles, General Secretary
- 6 Big Rocks, Small Pebbles, and Sand
- 10 Celebrating the Past: Embracing a Promising Future
- 14 Reaching Out: Touching Lives Across the World
- 17 Bishop Phillip Aquila Brooks' Journey From Shepherd to General
- 22 Statement of Faith: A Purpose
- 26 The Dreamer Cometh
- 28 New Pastor for Temple of Deliverance
- 32 The Church of God in Christ National Orchestra
- 34 Missions on the Move in Argentina
- 36 On Carlton Pearson's Inclusion Doctrine
- 39 Musical Dream Realized
- 40 Holy Women Bond Together in 57th Women's Convention
- 43 St. Andrew Temple
- 44 COGIC Around the World
- 47 General Board Member Suffers Death of Wife
- 48 Gloria Joann Hall: A Complete Woman and Mother
- 50 My Testimony



Presiding Bishop

Chairman-Centennial Committee

Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake and Bishop R. L. H. Winbush  
Pre-Centennial Celebration Detroit Michigan 2007

*The Whole Truth* magazine (USPS No. 780340) is published quarterly for the annual subscription rate of \$20. Payable in advance in U.S. currency only. Published by the Church Of God In Christ, Inc., 2500 Lamar Avenue Memphis, TN 38114. Periodical Postage rate paid at Memphis, TN. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Whole Truth* Magazine, P.O. Box 2017, Memphis, TN 38101. For additional information or to subscribe, call 901.744.0477 or write: *The Whole Truth* Magazine, P.O. Box 2017, Memphis, TN 38101.



### Publisher

Bishop C.E. Blake  
*Presiding Bishop, COGIC*

### CEO: Publishing House

Dr. David A. Hall, Sr.

### Production Advisor

Randolph Bolden

### Design/Layout/Art Direction

Frederick Virgous

### Features Editors Department Editors / Writers

Evangelist Glenda  
Williams-Goodson

### Photography

Cover Photo Jody Herndon  
Milla Shaw  
David Hall  
Keith Little

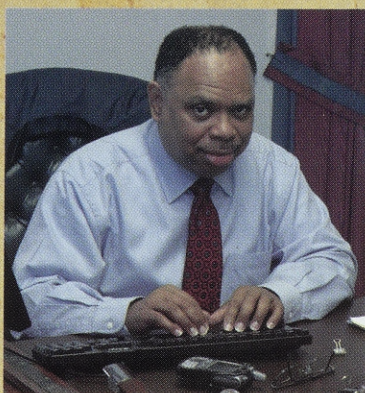
### Publishing Board Commission

Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush  
*Chairman*  
Bishop Samuel L. Green  
Bishop LeRoy Anderson

### General Board

Bishop C.E. Blake  
*Presiding Bishop*  
Bishop J.N. Haynes  
*1st Assistant Presiding Bishop*  
Bishop P.A. Brooks  
*2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop*  
Bishop W.W. Hamilton  
*Secretary*  
Bishop R.L.H. Winbush  
*Assistant Secretary*  
Bishop C.D. Owens  
Bishop S.L. Green  
Bishop L. Anderson  
Bishop G. McKinney  
Bishop N. Wells  
Bishop Jerry Macklin  
Bishop Earl J. Wright  
Elder Joel Lyles  
*General Secretary*  
Judge Enoch Perry  
*Chief Counsel*





## Joel Lyles, General Secretary

Seven years ago, the late Elder Alferd Zannie Hall, Jr., with the approval of Bishop G. E. Patterson, gave me the incredible privilege of serving the Church Of God In Christ as Assistant General Secretary for Administration. Like Jacob, these years have *"seemed like only a few days"* (Genesis 29:20 NIV). The results of the pioneering work of Elder Hall in the Office of the General Secretary are seen today in the efficient operation of the office, the representation of dedicated and competent staff, the use of modern technology to enhance our ministries and most of all, the confidence displayed by the Presiding Bishop, General Board and General Assembly, in allowing me the opportunity to complete Elder Hall's unexpired term of office.

As the General Secretary, it is my privilege to report to you that several milestones have been reached during this administration. Some of the significant accomplishments of our office include:

- **Enhancing an interactive web site ([cogicgensec.org](http://cogicgensec.org) to [cogicgeneralsecretary.org](http://cogicgeneralsecretary.org)).** Vital information can be obtained online, such as the General Assembly registration. The national calendar of events can be perused. This technological advancement has saved both time and resources in communicating with jurisdictional leaders throughout the world.
- **Streamlining the registration process by allowing pre-registration for all jurisdictions.** Gone are the days of standing in line for hours in order to register as a delegate. Provided the delegate has all of the required documentation, registration can be completed in as little as five to ten minutes.
- **Expanding and improving the annual Souvenir Journal, The McBrayer-Franklin Report and other office publications.** The journal is now primarily printed in full color at optimum quality and the McBrayer-Franklin Report is produced as a medium to network with the Jurisdictional Secretaries and other officials. Publications from our office are produced with a spirit of excellence that well represents the Church Of God In Christ.
- **Revising the format of the Bishop Herbert J. Williams Seminars.** During both the Leadership Conference and the AIM Convention, our office provides training and assistance to jurisdictional secretaries through a diversity of seminars and workshops. Seminars are designed to enhance, broaden and improve the administrative, management and communication skills of the Jurisdictional Secretary.
- **Expedition processing of credential cards.** The department formally known as the "Clergy Bureau" is an integral area of the Office of the General Secretary. From the financial data received from the Financial Secretary, the Office of the General Secretary produces credential cards for those persons who pay the appropriate assessment. From May 2007 through August 31, 2007, more than 36,000 credential cards were processed and mailed.

Under my leadership, the Office of the General Secretary will continue to be on the cutting edge of making our heritage accessible to new audiences, provide the essential services of the secretariat and support the vision of our leaders. With the centennial celebration of our Holy Convocation on hand, the Office of the General Secretary is committed to continuing to build on the shoulders of those great men, which served this office so well.

It has been my joy these past 7 years to serve with the other staff members of our office and I am humbled to now serve as the 9th General Secretary of the Church Of God In Christ. I am grateful to the Presiding Bishop, General Board, Chairman of the General Assembly, General Assembly, the Assistant General Secretaries and the superb staff of the Secretariat that support our work. I am also grateful to my wife, Vell, and daughter Ashley, who has faithfully supported me over the years! May the Lord richly bless each of you!



# More than 100 Jurisdictional Secretaries Attend the Bishop H.J. Williams Seminar

## SUMMER SESSION

Pastor Talbert W. Swan, II, Assistant General Secretary for Administration and coordinator of this year's Bishop Herbert J. Williams seminars reported record attendance during the AIM Convention in Louisville, KY with nearly 100 secretaries in attendance. In addition, Swan was also proud to report an unprecedented visit to the session by Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., who lauded the work of the secretariat. "When Elder Hall passed, it was a unanimous decision by the General Board to select Elder Joel Lyles to succeed him," stated Bishop Blake. "There was no need to look far as we were confident to put the office in the capable hands of the next man in line," said Blake. Bishop Blake went on to share some concerns of the National Church with those in attendance and thanked jurisdictional secretaries across the brotherhood for their hard work and dedication. It was indeed a blessing to be addressed by our leader.

## November 2007 General Assembly Registration

Online registration for the November 2007 session of the General Assembly commenced August 15, 2007 and closed September 15, 2007. A significant number of jurisdictions have utilized this technological advancement provided by the Office of the General Secretary. Upon arrival in Memphis, delegates from those jurisdictions, with the appropriate "Certificate of Election" and current credential card will receive their General Assembly badges in an expeditious manner.

Onsite registration for the November 2007 General Assembly will begin on Monday, November 5, 2007 through Sunday, November 11, 2007. Registration will be held in the Cook Convention Center, L9-13 and the hours are as follows:

**Monday, November 5, 2007**

**2:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, November 6, 2007-Friday, November 9, 2007**

**9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 10, 2007**

**10:00 a.m.-2:00p.m.**

**Sunday, November 11, 2007**

**5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.**

## November 2007 General Assembly Session to Include Action on Presiding Bishop

**NOVEMBER 12-14, 2007**

Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., Chairman of the General Assembly announced that the proposed agenda for the November 2007 session of the General Assembly will include the following:

**A SECOND READING OF THE PROPOSED  
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

**A REPORT FROM THE GENERAL BOARD**

**A REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND**

**ACTION REGARDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL  
PROVISION FOR THE SELECTION OF THE  
PRESIDING BISHOP**

To ensure that the business of the General Assembly is achieved, Chairman Patterson has extended the General Assembly from November 12, through Wednesday-noon, November 14, 2007. Due to the nature of the agenda and the expectation of a large number of delegates, the location of the November session will be announced upon arrival in Memphis.

Delegates must register for the General Assembly through the Office of the General Secretary. The General Secretary, Elder Joel Harley Lyles, Jr., sent correspondence to all Bishops, Supervisors, Jurisdictional Secretaries and National Elected and Appointed Officers regarding location and hours of registration. Badges, with the November 2007 date, issued from the Office of the General Secretary, will be required for admission to the General Assembly. No one will be admitted to the General Assembly without the appropriate badge. Delegates are encouraged to register early. ☉





# “Big Rocks, Small Pebbles, and Sand!”

Excerpt of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake’s Address to the General Assembly, April, 2007

“First and foremost, we must maintain our focus on spiritual renewal through-out the Church Of God In Christ.”

Excerpt of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake’s Address to the General Assembly, April, 2007:

I want to extend high honor and respect to our Chairman, Bishop J.O. Patterson. I respect, admire, and have participated in the life of the General Assembly for many, many years of my ministry, and one of my early national positions was that of special assistant and aide to Bishop Levi Willis, who was the Chairman of the General Assembly. I have much respect for the General Assembly.

I feel that the various elements, departments, and aspects of the operation of our Church are very essential to the well-being of our Church. As Bishop Patterson said, “There are lanes that we are supposed to operate and navigate in, and as long as we respect and give credence to the involvement to those doing their work, the overall life of the Church can be enhanced.”

We’ve got Pentecostal power! And, with that power, that faith, and that knowledge of what God has done, and what God can do, we ought to know, there is no defeat, there is no failure. I believe that during this Centennial year, we ought to renew our commitment to turn the world “upside down” for Jesus Christ.

[We should] make no small plans! [Nor should we] set small goals. We serve an omnipotent God. I hope we’ll go from this

place with a determination in our hearts that we’re going to work and strive . . . I’m believing that God is going to do things in my ministry that He’s never done before. I pray that you have that same faith regarding your ministry, your relationship, and the work you will do for our Lord.

Stephen Covey, arguably, is the foremost management, organization and leadership authorities in the world today. He tells a story of a professor who came before his class with three piles on a table before his students. There was a pile of big rocks, a pile of pebbles, and a pile of sand on the table.

He had a container on the table and he challenged his students to get all three piles in that single container. Some of them came forth and tried to get the sand in. They got it in successfully. They got the little pebbles in. But then they tried to get the big rocks in after getting the sand and pebbles in.

They totally failed in that endeavor because the container was already filled with sand and pebbles. The sand and pebbles really represents small and insignificant things. And when they got through, they had no room for the big things! The main things! The important things! Finally, the professor advised the class that what they’ve got to do is take care of the big rocks first.

The big assignments, the main things first . . . And when you put the big rocks in first, you can pour the pebbles in gradually



Chairman, Bishop J.O. Patterson



and shake the container and the pebbles will filter in between the big rocks, and then you can take the sand and do the same thing with it. Ultimately, you'll get the big rocks, the pebbles, and the sand into the container.

So many of us, many times, get so involved in the small things and we get submerged in the little things that we're unable, when the time comes, to take care of the major goals, the major assignments! We're unable to accomplish them. And so, it is my objective at the beginning of this administration to make sure that I take care of the big rocks first.

## I. Spiritual Vitality

First and foremost, we must maintain our focus on spiritual renewal throughout the Church Of God In Christ. In spite of all the things we do, if we don't maintain our relationship with the Lord and we don't enhance it, then all of the other things we do are in vain. He's got to be number one; and we've got to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. We must maintain a high priority regarding Spirit-filled living.

## II. World Evangelism

Second, focus on Evangelism. Our service that we give to Him is most important and then our service that we give for Him is also important. That is, to win the world for Jesus Christ, we must first win our community!

## III. Financial Accountability

Third, fiscal openness and transparency. The survival of the church is in many ways dependent upon our financial integrity. And so a very, very, important big rock for me is: It is my intention, as I said last night, that every dime of the Church's money will be visible and will be accessible to us. As soon as possible, we will be audit-ready. And that we'll not only present a financial report to this General Assembly, but we'll present audited financial reports to this General Assembly for all of our money.

The little church I serve in Los Angeles brings in about 16 or 17 million dollars a year. For the last 15 or more years, we've had full financial audits for my local church congregation, and that, we will impose upon and bring into the life of the National Church.

## IV. Urban Ministry

Fourth, focus on urban ministry and mobilization. Urban ministry and mobilizing at every level from the national to the local church is important. We are living in very difficult times. This is especially true of African-American males in the U.S. A

March 20, 2006 New York Times article showed that black men are becoming ever more disconnected from mainstream society. It cited these statistics: High School dropouts among inner city blacks are over half their population. Joblessness among black male high school dropouts in their 20s is 72 percent. Incarceration (prison plus jail) among black men in their 20s who did not attend college is 21 percent. And, incarceration-to-employment ratio among black male dropouts in their 20s, indicates there are more behind bars (34%) than are working (30%). We must do something about this problem so close to home.

## V. Global Missions and Relief

Fifth, global missions and outreach. The Lord mandated me to get involved in missions many years ago. Bishop Moody will attest for the last 20 years or more, West Angeles Church has been the #1 missions giving church in the Church Of God In Christ. We never failed to send monthly and annual contributions for the support of our Missions Department. Through SAC – Save Africa's Children, we've raised more than 6 million dollars to support over 200,000 orphaned children in 23 nations of Africa in 400 separate child care programs. The same global focus is what I intend to bring to our Missions Department and to the Missions Outreach of the Church Of God In Christ. Brothers and Sisters, we are judged before God, by our treatment of the poor.



## VI. Economic and Social Development

The sixth item of important is economic and social justice. We've got to launch economic and social programs to literally turn our cities around. The most rapidly increasing population in terms of becoming HIV positive is African American females. We've got to speak out on that. We can't be a denomination that would exist and it be known to our world that we never addressed the AIDS issue, the prostate cancer issue, and a host of other issues that are literally taking us out of existence. Economically, we are disadvantaged because of lack of educational opportunity. But, in this information age, education is much easier to access from a computer at home, or in a local library, than at any other time in history. So, we intend to use the internet to connect our constituency to our institutions of higher learning so that we may reshape our readiness for economic opportunity and professional development among our leaders.

## VII. The Local Church

And finally, the seventh initiative, and of course, what tugs at my heartstrings with great passion, is the work of the local church. As the pastor of a local church, [I believe] it is the most





Presiding Bishop  
Charles E. Blake

important unit in the Church Of God In Christ, and without the local church, there would be no need for anything else in the Church Of God In Christ. Our life, our viability, our success is built upon the success of our local churches and we want to do everything we can from the perspective of education, training, practical exposure from the perspective of collective endeavors to

provide financing, council, and advancement, and various programs for the well-being of the pastors and our local churches.

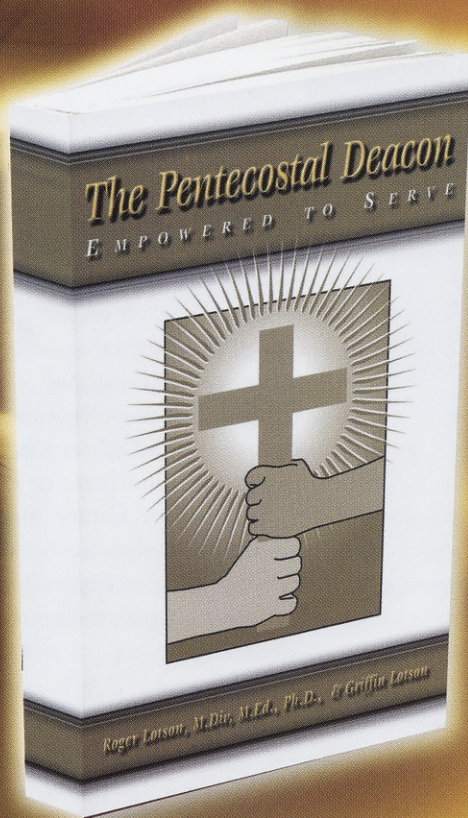
I believe that if we do this . . . the Church Of God In Christ will flourish.

So if we deal with those big rocks, we'll have room, and have space for those other areas of life, and endeavors that we must pursue, and we must attend to.

And so we ask your prayers for me, prayers for the General Board, collectively, as we embark upon this journey. You've authorized us to serve through November, and we hope that by November we'll have a good report for you.

As you select the future leadership of the Church, we'll hand to them a Church much better off than it was before we assumed our particular responsibility. ☺

**"We are judged by God by how we treat the poor."**



## New Release

### The Pentecostal Deacon "Empowered To Serve"

ask for it...

COGIC Bookstore  
Call 901-525-4004



# Did You Renew Your Subscription?

Last December the staff at the Publishing House mailed a renewal notice to your house. Hundreds of you took the opportunity to use the return envelope and send the payment back. Many hundreds of you failed to return the envelope.



The Whole Truth Magazine is constantly upgrading and attempting to provide timely and important news of the Church Of God In Christ. Every saint, but especially credential holders, should receive the magazine. It only costs \$20.00.

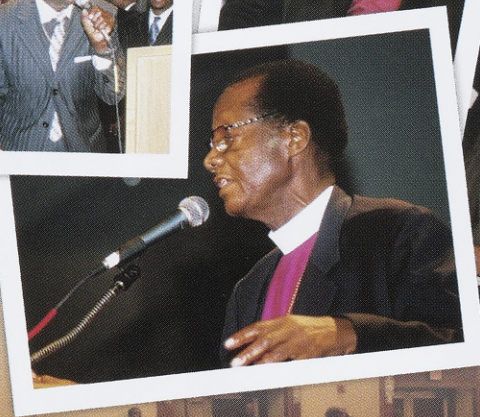
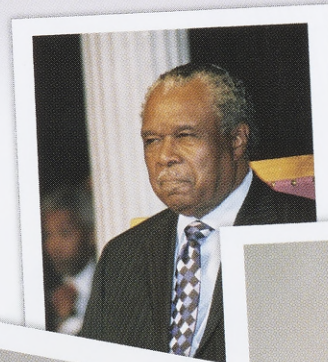


## It is not too late!



# "Celebrating the Past: Embracing a Promising Future"

Detroit Michigan





Detroit Michigan - Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. and the saints were hosted by the prelates of Michigan and Canada for Pre-Centennial Celebration. The theme: "Celebrating the Past: Embracing a Promising Future" came alive as the Cobo Hall gave way to praises and worship. There was an added twist to the celebration, in keeping the spirit of remembering the centennial of our Pentecostal experience, Bishop Blake invited sons and daughters of the Church Of God In Christ home for fellowship.

Bishop Blake wrote, "On this 100th year celebration of the Church Of God In Christ as the centennial beacon for Pentecostal faith, we gather in two cities to remember and to reaffirm our commitment to the foundation of Pentecostal Faith laid by our sainted father, the late Bishop Charles Harrison Mason." The brothers and sisters who graciously accepted the call to come from around the country and celebrate our common heritage brought an added dimension to the event. And so they came from across the country and for many it was a trip back home to Michigan.

The COGIC Reunion was attended by Bishop J.D. Wiley, Pastor James Bowman, Pastor Claudette Copeland, Bishop Shelton Bady, Bishop J. Delano Ellis, Pastor Judy Shaw, Bishop Keith Butler, Bishop Ernestine Reems Dickerson, Bishop John Francis, Pastor Ray Iglehart, Bishop James Dixon, Pastor James Felton, Pastor Marvin Winans, Bishop Paul Morton, Bishop James Feltus and Bishop Dwight Brown. Yes, from New York to California they came recounting their heritage and destiny in God. They proudly proclaimed their COGIC upbringing and nurture. Now they represent hundreds and thousands of people who populate Apostolic churches, Baptist churches, Baptist-Pentecostal groups, independent word ministries and a variety of other ministries. Their sharing provided a witness that people of faith can come together in spite of their differences and dwell upon those things that make us alike.

It was with great delight the saints, filling Cobo Hall sampled the spiritual anointing and preached Word. The move of God entreated the crowd to participate in an evening of excitement and musical sounds. Great voices of noted recording artists like Evelyn Turrentine-Agee, Pastor Marvin Sapp, Pastor Norman Hutchins, Vanessa Bell Armstrong and Pastor Rance Allen provided that extra benefit. Couple the musical star power with the powerful mass choir from Michigan, the sounds of heaven were splendid.

Midway of the worship, the Presiding Bishop spoke to the assembled crowd. He stood magnificently before the masses speaking about the realities of our shared heritage. There was no spirit of jealousy nor animosity among the saints for the success of those

who left the Church Of God In Christ. Out of their mouths came words of blessings and their accomplishments. Both men and women alike recounted their times in Sunshine Band, singing in the choir, serving as deacons and tarrying at the altar. They were real COGIC folks and nothing nor time and distance could change the essence of their theological and religious history. Most of us knew about their accomplishments but it was good to hear their witnesses. Bishop Blake's innovative approach made them comfortable; the charming presence of smiling faces and hearts filled with love, made the long program of service go quickly.

The following comments are a few of the statements made by those who participated in the "Reunion of Sons and Daughters".

Bishop J. D. Wiley a native of Michigan, now residing in New Orleans and Pastor of Life Center Baptist Church was the first worship leader. He asked for a moment of personal privilege, "I honor Bishop Blake for his marvelous spirit for bringing the sons

of the church home..." Bishop Wiley stated he plays the recordings of Bishop Mason daily and is proud to be a son of the Church Of God In Christ. He honored the old saints and recently deceased Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson who influenced his life. He then led the saints in the singing of our theme song, "This Is The Church Of God In Christ".

Pastor Claudette Copeland of San Antonio, Texas spoke of her love for the Church. She and Bishop David Copeland are graduates of C. H. Mason Seminary and the first certified chaplain couple to serve a commission in the armed forces. She said, "The callings of God are without repentance. God called me from the streets of Buffalo, New York. God made me a woman and I am proud to be a woman." She is a glittering

example of positive thought and anointed preparation. She received her foundations and the heritage from training in the Church Of God In Christ.

Bishop Shelton Bady, of Houston, TX is now serving a large Pentecostal Assemblies of the World congregation. He was thankful and gracious for the opportunity of fellowship. He shaped his comments around the life of his dad. His belief of a healing God was created in the experience of his dad's praise after his father sustained a broken leg. The Bishop serves 4,000 rejoicing members who dance and praise God. Bady's statement asserted the genuine Pentecost that has been his foundation and that foundation was in the Church Of God In Christ. He used a text from Proverb 26:4-5. His thought was "How to Answer a Fool."

Bishop J. Delano Ellis of Cleveland, Ohio was his usual upbeat and dynamic self. His recounting years of involvement with the leaders of the Church, and his ground breaking contributions



*Bishop Ernestine Dickerson*



were historic. He set the house afire with the story of his conversion from Islam. Always genuine and sharp in his story telling, Bishop Ellis was spiritually relevant and certainly welcomed home. He said, "Fifty years ago I was a Muslim, this very month, I was praying facing the east. I had a friend name Edward who invited me to church." The story expressed how the two of them traded visits, Bro. Edward at his mosque and Bishop Ellis at R.T. Jones' Church. However, at Christian Tabernacle COGIC he found Jesus after much inward struggle. Edward was praying save him Jesus, and on November 27, 1957, the Lord saved him. Bishop Ellis remembered telling Pastor Jones during his message, "You can quit preaching, you win!" Before his comments were over, the Cobo Hall was in exalted praise!

Pastor Judy Shaw of Sioux Falls, SD, spoke of the strong foundation the Church Of God In Christ gave her. She is noted for her work among the native Americans of the west. She thanked Bishop Blake for his vision and then spoke of her relationship with Mother Mattie McGlothen. She, like most, have served in ministry to many jurisdictions and conferences. Her words were conciliatory. Being a child of a bishop, Bishop Roberson, Shaw has seen the Church, and God pushing the Church Of God In Christ in new directions.

Bishop Keith Butler of Detroit, MI, and Word of Faith Christian Center spoke of a 17 year old boy who was directed to attend Anderson Memorial Church Of God In Christ. Sister Twinkie Clark recommended he do so. While there, two events occurred, he saw his future wife and also heard the message. It was the message that held him and he responded to the Word preached by Bishop C. L. Anderson. "I want to thank Bishop Blake for opening the door for those of us whom the Lord call to varying things," said Bishop Butler. Bishop Butler blessed the Church Of God In Christ for its purpose and faithfulness. Bishop Mason was given the "Keys to the Kingdom" and we have been faithful. Bishop Butler encouraged the Church Of God In Christ, "continue to walk in the love of God."

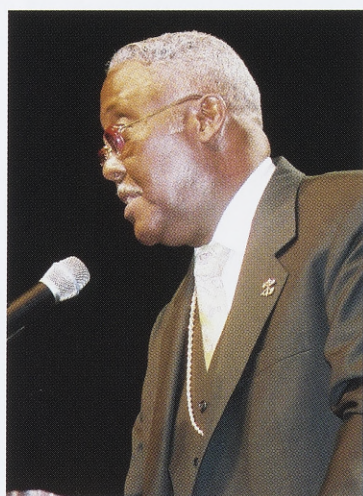
Bishop Ernestine Reems Dickerson, of Oakland, California conducted the ministry of giving. She unfolded a story rich with history and faithfulness to God. She was poignant in her remarks about how blessed her ministry was and thank God for her Church Of God

In Christ training and heritage. She spoke of fifty years ago, the devil told her she was wrong. "No body has me standing here, but God." She expressed her long relationship with the young Bishop Blake who asked her about ministry techniques. She expressed a gladness of being raised in the Church Of God In Christ. Her next comments really brought an edge to the evening when she stated, "My father preached in this Church 68 years. We might not be known for a lot of things, but if you move among Caucasians, move among Word people, move among Baptist, everyone of them will tell you the best people that come and join their church are from the Church Of God In Christ." The applause was muted but the crowd understood the point. The Bishop raised a good offering and of course her comments added to a well-rounded nature of reunion.

Sister Annie Hollywell of Memphis, Tennessee was on fire for the Lord. She testified of her personal experience in the Church Of God In Christ, and how she married a man of God, who established an independent Church. Her Pastor, Elder Smith, informed her and encouraged her to follow her husband. The result of their union and collaboration in ministry was a great blessing in another vineyard. She and Pastor Sammy Hollywell have an outstanding independent Pentecostal Church.

Bishop John Francis of London England presented the history of the Church Of God In Christ in England. The Church started in 1948 with a woman encouraged to open the door of her home. Racial and religious prejudice caused Black Pentecostal worshippers to gather. In 1949, Bishop Watley of Chicago, Illinois went to England and established the small congregation as COGIC. In 1953,

Bishop Mason traveled over and confirmed the organization's position in England. The Francis family were part of the historic founding of the English branch of the Church Of God In Christ. Bishop Francis spoke about a climate of change for the Church. He said God wanted him to share that the season or period of change is coming for the Church Of God In Christ. He too, is now an independent Pentecostal leader.



*Bishop J.D. Ellis*



*Bishop Morton and Dr. Hall*



*Bishop John Francis*

Pastor Ray Iglehart of Baton Rouge, Louisiana is Pastor of a large Pentecostal Baptist Church. His efforts brought the house to fever pitch with remembrance of his childhood. "The Church Of



God In Christ is not a denomination but rather an anointing,” said the distinguished looking pastor. He began to unpack that statement with evidence of his upbringing where praying, preaching and praise were essential. He and all of us have a distinguishing DNA: Holiness. He stated, “We have our own theological lexicon where terms like shut-in and praying through are essential expressions of our belief.” He listed names of COGIC preachers that influenced his ministry and spoke of them in legendary terms.

Pastor Rodney Washington of Jacksonville, Florida is growing by leaps and bounds. He is a television personality and Pastor of an independent Pentecostal Church, the Greater Harvest Dome. His roots are in the Church Of God In Christ where Bishop C.D. Kinsey instructed and trained him in the faith. He was extremely happy for his opportunity to appear on the program.

Pastor James Feltus of Kalamazoo, Michigan spoke elegantly with an historic perspective, “the moving from Charles Mason to Charles Blake.” Now a Baptist minister, Feltus demonstrated his preaching skills to ignite the congregation. He hit the bull’s eye, “God used Charles Mason to establish the first century of service. Now what will God do the second century through Charles Blake?” He effectively brought the Word with power.

Bishop Paul Morton, Presiding Bishop of the Full Gospel Baptist Church brought the final Word. He informed the saints to “not loose their keys.” He thought He would leave COGIC and just be a Baptist preacher. He built a ‘Mega Church’ with no power. Something was missing! His aunt challenged him to preach holiness. It forced him back to the Bible. He gave the word that the Full Gospel Baptist Fellowship is what it is because of the Church Of God In Christ. Bishop Mason gave the keys of the Kingdom to the Church Of God In Christ: The Power of the Holy Ghost!

So moved was Bishop David Copeland, Master of Ceremony for the second half of the service, he expressed his love for the Church Of God In Christ for the instruction and inspiration. This learning helped him and his wife maintain family and life.

Bishop James Feltus of Dallas, TX and New Orleans, Louisiana prayed a prayer of unity. Before he did that, he expressed the fact that he was a part of the Church Of God In Christ for 86 years. Bishop Mason baptized his father and in turn his father baptized Bishop Mason.

On the next night the worship moved to the Headquarters of Northeast Michigan. Second Assistant Presiding Bishop P. A. Brooks hosted the worship. That service too was powerful and memorable. There was music and singing beyond special. The Detroit area is known for the talent and creativity of that city’s residents. It was certainly on display that night.

Bishop C. E. Blake spoke warmly of the area of Detroit, Michigan, the city where he met his wife of 43 years, Sister Mae Blake. The city of Detroit was the place our founder, the late Senior Bishop Charles H. Mason lived his last days and died.

Detroit was where Bishop G. E. Patterson lived. Bishop Blake asked for prayer for the many saints he mentioned. “On October 15, 2007, there will be a season of fasting and praying, in preparation for the tremendous outpouring of the Spirit. On October 15, there will be a 21 day period of fasting and praying. “Abstain from food and liquids,” instructed the Presiding Bishop. Bishop Blake spoke of the opportunity he had meeting Bishop Mason—His vivid description of Bishop Mason’s anointed life and quickening in the Spirit. He shaped his remarks around a traditional teaching in the Church Of God In Christ in reference to “quickening”. The Holy Ghost shaking is another type of quickening and evidence of God’s moving in our behalf. “I am looking for another filling, that which is accompanied with the speaking in other tongues. I want to speak everyday.”

Pastor Loran Mann of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Pastor of Pentecostal Temple preached the night’s message. He took his text from Exodus 14:17-18, and he focused on the fact that God was going to receive His honor even from the Egyptians. Pastor Mann accentuated the point that in the Hebrew language honor means glory. He simply preached an anointed message. The bus loads of saints that came from Pittsburgh were made proud by their pastor. The glory of God was present. ☪

*Bishop Bady*



*Evangelist Shaw*



*Bishop & Pastor Copeland*



# Reaching Out: Touching Lives Across the World!

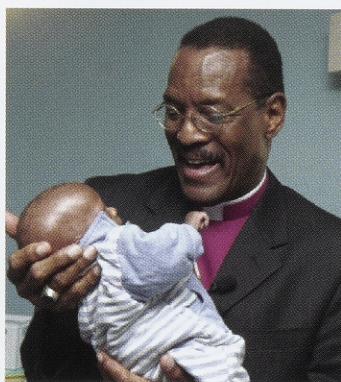


As Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers and later gained affluence in the land of his bondage, so it is with African-Americans—the richest group of Africans in the world. And with this prominence, comes a responsibility to do what Joseph did—to compassionately, reach back to the very brothers who sold him, and with compassion, rescue them from their plight, Bishop Charles Blake intimated to the faculty and students at Harvard Divinity School's Memorial Chapel Convocation.

HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death world-wide among those aged 15-59, and has already claimed 25 million lives and orphaned 15 million children. An estimated 40 million people are infected worldwide. Sub-Saharan Africa is home to two-thirds of those living with HIV and over 90 percent of the children are infected with HIV.

Bishop Blake, the founder of Save Africa's Children (SAC) has created what is among the first and largest African-American founded organizations providing direct support to AIDS orphans. Each day, millions of

children on the continent of Africa awake to the reality of losing their mother or father to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In just one day, HIV/AIDS will claim the lives of over 3,000 of God's precious little ones; approximately 1,400 will die of AIDS and 1,800 will be infected with the HIV virus. Thousands of innocent children will also die from starvation, malaria or fall victim to conflict and into the clutches of terrorist warlords.



Bishop holding infant at Orphan Center in Africa

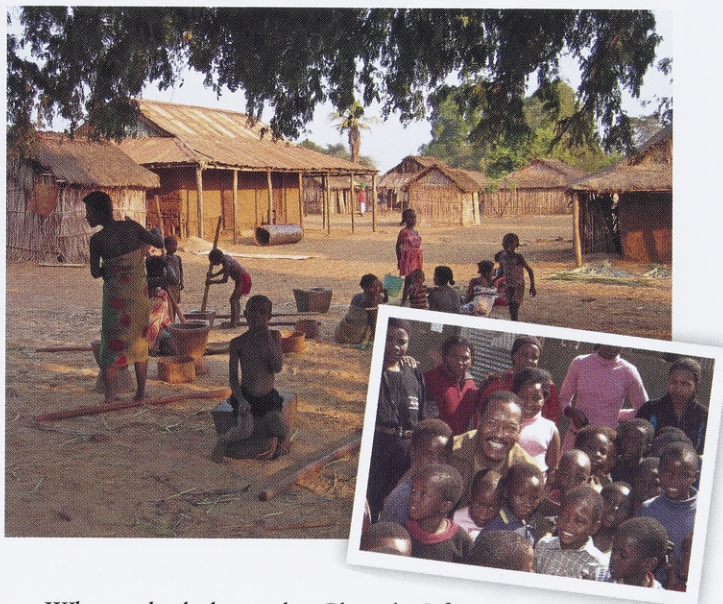
In speaking with the Executive Director of Save Africa's Children, Diana Millner, she says, "The statistics are overwhelming and the actual realities on the ground are much worse. There will be an estimated 20 million AIDS orphans by 2010, 90% of whom receive no external support beyond the immediate family." "Bishop Blake's intervention, while small in comparison to the enormous problem is nonetheless, important to the children who are rescued from these startling statistics," says Millner.

SAC supports the "hardest to reach" efforts in Africa – targeting children in urban slums and remote rural areas. Based in Los Angeles, California, SAC has directly assisted nearly 400 orphan care programs in 23 African nations



which have positively impacted the lives of more than 200,000 orphans. We partner with schools, day care centers, medical clinics, feeding programs and children's homes to restore hope in the most desperate situations.

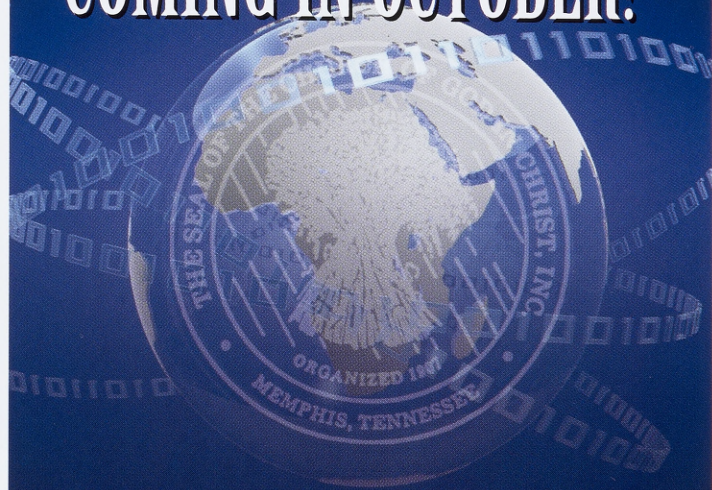
Quoting the gospel of Jesus, Bishop Blake said, "We know that to whom much is given, much is required. We have been afforded tremendous opportunities in this country. We can send children to school, rescue abandoned babies from the clutches of death, feed thousands of children, build classrooms and deliver desperately needed medical assistance to sick children. It takes so little to transform despair into restored hope and the promise of a future."



When asked about the Church Of God In Christ missions program, Bishop Blake said, "The Church has been reaching across the globe for almost as long as we have been in existence. Literally thousands of lives have been impacted because of the Church's efforts to reach into 53 nations around the world with care. What we must do for the future of missions is define areas of concentration, recruit and train more mission workers of all age groups, develop comprehensive strategies to respond to poverty and famine, and insure that our representation on the ground continue to be accountable, as well as, build a strong basis for continued support." In fact, I can say that my leadership of the Church will certainly place missions on the short-list of immediate priorities. On the issue of missions, I won't have to stretch myself regarding world missions," says Blake. "West Angeles may very well be the largest contributor to the denomination's mission's program. For 30 years, we have given more than \$1 million to COGIC missions to support efforts on every continent around the world." ☺

**"Men ought to always pray!"**

# COMING IN OCTOBER!



The Official web-site of the Office  
of the Presiding Bishop of  
The Church Of God In Christ.

- New and Streaming Video
- Announcements
- Theological Perspectives
- Prayer & Devotional
- Online Office
  - Staff Directory
  - Calendar
  - Contact Us
  - Networking

and much much more...

**[www.cogicpresidingbishop.org](http://www.cogicpresidingbishop.org)**





# Let's Celebrate A Great Centennial Year

100th International Holy Convocation  
from the staff of The Whole Truth



# Bishop Philip Aquila Brooks' Journey From Shepherd to General

The Whole Truth Gets to Know the 2nd Vice President of the Church of God in Christ A Little Better



By Glenda Williams Goodson

You've heard the wonderful songs he sings that lift you higher and higher and higher as he presides during Holy Convocation. Perhaps, you've noted his gracious entrance into the General Assembly. The recent changing of the guard due to the ascension of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake (after the kingdom graduation of the late Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson) has seen Bishop J. Neaul Haynes chosen as First Assistant Presiding Bishop. Now a new focus has been placed on the role of Bishop Phillip Aquila Brooks, the Second Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ (COGIC) everywhere.

Like David who learned valuable lessons as a shepherd that transitioned him to leadership of an army, Bishop Brooks uses the wisdom gained through serving the Lord from his youth to assist him in his current myriad duties. With his additional responsibilities, The Whole Truth Magazine wants its readers to understand that Bishop Brooks' ability to take risks, build relationships and continuously perform on the cutting edge has thrust him into positions beyond his dreams. Bishop Brooks, a third generation preacher, has a policy of looking out for the underprivileged (formed first in Chicago's tough Cabrini Green projects and later in Detroit). His integrity, stature and commitment to God makes him a man to be reckoned with and a formidable foe of the enemy. What emerges from the conversation are the fundamentals of his character: an abiding love for God, a toughness coupled with determination, a healthy respect for leadership, a love for people, and an earnest outreach to the larger community.

James and Eleanor Hall Brooks were among those migrating from the South (Olive Branch, Mississippi). His parents must have received insight that he would become a man of the cloth and liturgy and named him after an Episcopal Bishop, Philip Brooks a

theologian and noted songwriter. Bishop Brooks was born in Chicago where his father worked in the steel mills. "It wasn't until I was in the ministry that I discovered the biblical meaning [of my name]. Philip was a lover of horses and Aquila is the Greek word for eagle." His father purchased a string instrument, sacrificed for music lessons, and counted on his son's obedience to add potency to church services. "Music is a powerful vehicle of expression. My father had a plan...he wanted me to play music in the church..." As a youth he was blessed to attend services under noted Evangelists such as E.E. Cleveland and Missionary Fistrump. "Bishop William Roberts was the bishop when I was a youth...and I remember...we were taught the Word of God and learned to love the Lord." He was saved while attending the Northside Church where Elder Leroy Works served as pastor, and filled with the Holy Ghost at age ten.

Two life changing and exciting events took place in 1950 that transformed his life. First, he was called to preach the gospel. Secondly, he met his best friend who would become the love of his life, Sister Doris Street. Bishop Rimson conducted their marriage ceremony at his home in 1952. Their love transcended some tough times as they took on the fulfilling, yet arduous task of ministry. In 1956 he started a mission in Detroit in a house that had been converted into a worship center. The membership grew and they moved into a second storefront on 14th Street. He vividly recalls that he walked by faith when money that should have been used to pay household bills was taken to support the ministry. Despite natural and spiritual challenges, the couple moved forward in the strength of God. Eventually, God blessed them with two beautiful children. "When my wife was expecting, she named the baby Faithe before the baby was born. Faithe was premature but we received the word that this baby would come through.



Evangelist Faithé now has both a radio and national television ministry on TCT network called Faith to Faith and she spreads the gospel throughout the world. Our next child was a boy and he was named Philip after me." Philip is following his dad's footsteps as a preacher. "He's also my minister of music. Both of my children are tremendous assets in the ministry."

Part of Bishop Brooks' success is that he has never been afraid to create whatever strategy necessary to accomplish lofty goals. He also knew the importance of the fathers fondly recalling good times with his Pastor, Bishop Rimson, Bishop William Roberts of Chicago and his mentor the late Bishop Wyoming Wells of North Carolina. During Bishop C.H. Mason's many visits to Chicago, he made sure to be in his presence when he would lay hands on many of the young people. "I have a penchant for history...actually I am a history fiend and find myself collecting history, especially COGIC. I was blessed to be in the presence of great historic figures such as Bishop Mason...it was awesome what God did through that 20th century apostle." Bishop Brooks is certainly not the only leader who understands the importance of connecting with people but this ability would stand him in good stead with leaders throughout his life and career. One such relationship was formed with Mrs. Deborah Mason Patterson and ultimately her husband. "Mrs. Coretta Scott King had been scheduled to speak for our Women's Day but...was not able. Mother Bailey (3rd National Supervisor) was coming in with the Women's Convention the next week. I got involved in my wife's Women's Day planning and asked her to let me call Sister Deborah Mason Patterson (daughter of COGIC founder and wife of Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson). Some thought she was too high profile for us to ask. We found that it was her first time being invited to speak in Detroit. Bishop Patterson was appreciative and we formed a relationship with Bishop Patterson then." As the years passed, Bishop Patterson continued to take note of him and in November of 1970 officially appointed him COGIC's first Chief Adjutant.

Having liquidated the debt on the building in the second year, they began another search. "A large church on the corner of Oakman Boulevard and Joy Road was selling for \$50,000.00." The lessons he learned through the obstacles he faced had far reaching implications and highlights his empathy for those in similar plights. "The Lord has blessed me to have faith in my brothers and I have guaranteed over forty loans. I believe the desire to assist my brothers was born in my Oakman Boulevard and Joy Road experience. We'd made a deposit, had \$30,000 in the bank, but because we did not have a credit history, the bank told us we had to have a co-signer." He digested the facts and immediately took action to comply with the bank's deadline. "I called Bishop Patterson who told me to call back the next day. I called and I couldn't get him - the phone stayed busy (now that I'm a bishop, I understand phone lines being busy)." A decision had to be made and that's when his chutzpah kicked in. He called together church trustees and told them that he needed a ticket to Memphis, took a 2 p.m. flight and upon arrival called again. Sister Patterson informed him that the Bishop was completing his radio broadcast and could not be disturbed. "I got a taxi and went to his house on Parkway. When Sister Patterson opened the door the first thing she said to me was, 'no you didn't.'

I said, 'yes I did,' and she laughed." After showing him to the studio he stood as the Bishop wrapped up. "Bishop Patterson never turned around but finally said, 'Reverend Mr. Brooks, have a seat.'" As I waited for him to further acknowledge me I took my bankbook and laid it on the desk. When he turned around I said, "I don't need money. I just need a guarantee." After reviewing the documents Bishop Patterson called Bishop Bailey. "He asked...if he knew a man named Brooks. Next he called Bishop Wyoming Wells down in North Carolina. Both of them said that I was a fine young man." Bishop Patterson gave his authorization and called the General Secretary Bishop D.A. Burton. "He said, 'I'm sending Brooks and I want you to sign some papers.'" Bishop Patterson made my reservations and I went. We paid that loan off in six years."

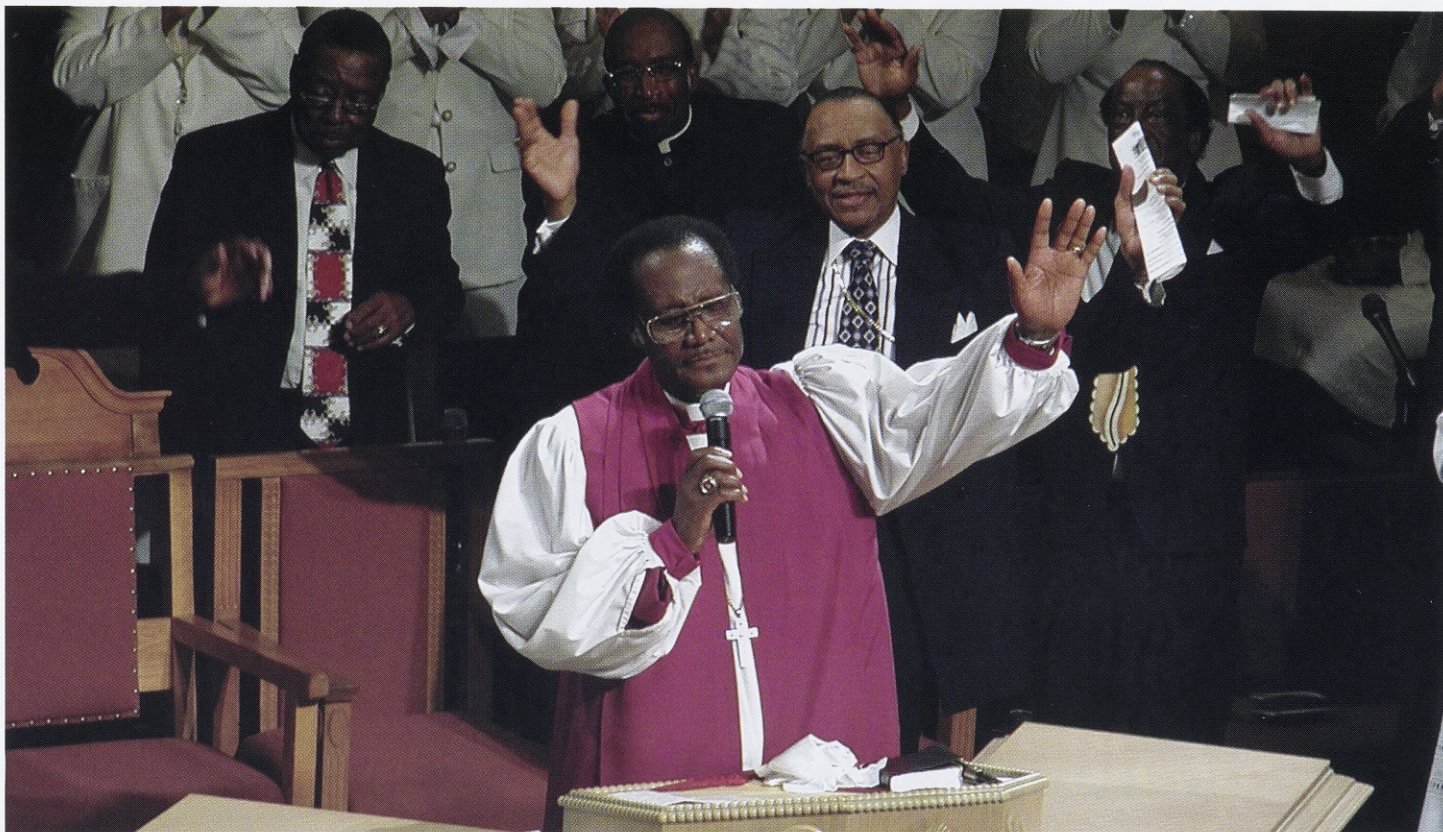
Bishop Brooks' partnerships and affiliations extended to civic leaders and have often served him well. "I have built great relationships across denominational lines. In the early 80's, Dr. Charles Butler, past president of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, stepped down so that I could come on board of the First Independence National Bank. I became the first COGIC preacher in Michigan to hold that position, and served twelve years." Brooks also served as Chairman of the Detroit NAACP membership drive, the largest branch in the nation. Michigan's Governor Jim Blanchard appointed him to the board of licensing for social workers and served eight years.

Bishop Brooks continued moving upward in his ecclesiastical career, keeping his commitment to serve. "I cannot stress enough that as we serve, our emphasis has to be on integrity as compared with talents and giftedness. Pastors and other leaders must be sure that they are persons of integrity...if not...eventually it will backfire." Bishop Patterson kept up with him and continued to guide him into expanded service. "Before I was Bishop he appointed me as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the C.H. Mason Foundation," (where he served with members of the Mason family, the General Board, Mother Mattie McGlothen and Mother Gertrude Young.) "I served on that right on through until I was elected to the General Board."

When Bishop C.J. Johnson retired in 1974 Bishop Patterson carried the state for a year. At the end of the next convocation he balloted the pastors to recommend Bishop Johnson's replacement. "I was barely 40 years old but I had the friendship of the fathers." On official day, August 2, 1975, Bishop Patterson announced the appointment of Superintendent Philip Aquila Brooks. "The church exploded. I was consecrated September 16, 1975 to the original Historic First Jurisdiction." He followed notables beginning with Bishop Mack E. Jonas, who accompanied Bishop Mason to Azusa Street, Dr. I.S. Stafford (one of the first black practicing gynecologists from Meharry), Bishop Kissinggina, Bishop I.W. Winans, Bishop C.L. Anderson, Sr. and Bishop C.J. Johnson.

Bishop Brooks vowed that he would be a good steward of the position he was entrusted to hold. Any new administration is justified in its authority to review roles or choose key appointees, and conceivably some early administrative missteps can be damaging. But





his sharp analysis and decision concerning his Jurisdictional Supervisor further endeared him to the saints. "Mother Mary Jane Hopkins was around 85 when I became bishop, twice my age, and was a little apprehensive...but good treatment will help anybody to live. I kept her and...she became a great supporter." Next, he facilitated a retirement stipend for the Bishop C.J. Johnson. "I don't think people should be overlooked. I made a decision to give him and his family half of my Official Day offering. I did it joyfully as long as he lived." Upon Bishop Johnson's death, his widow Mother Lillian Keyes Johnson, was appointed Assistant to Mother Hopkins and later became his Supervisor. "When Mother Johnson passed away he appointed another faithful woman, Mother Madge Cyars Supervisor. God will honor us when we do the right thing," he said.

He ran for a seat on the General Board with the understanding that he would broaden his service to the constituency. "My philosophy as Jurisdictional Prelate and indeed in any capacity is doing service. I believe my ministry as a bishop is...to the local pastor on the grass roots level. I feel that the COGIC ministry's major implementation is at the grass roots level. People enter into the kingdom at the local church level and the grass roots has to be nurtured. The pastors don't need me to pastor them...they need a resource person...someone to coach them. I can only be effective in facilitating the national Church's program in that I serve the interests of the local churches and pastors." He was elected in 1984. "I came in at the 6th level after Bishop J.D. Husband. Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, who was also elected that year, was appointed Secretary and I was appointed Assistant Secretary." He was appointed Secretary upon Bishop Haynes' promotion to second Assistant during the Owens' administration. Bishop Brooks also co-authored

the "Understanding Bible Doctrine as Taught in the COGIC," a classic tool for catechism in the faith.

Along with the cornerstone of risk taking, this leader has led New St. Paul in helping people help themselves through multipurpose ministries and New St. Paul provides both in-reach and outreach programs. New St. Paul employs approximately 125 individuals, and Bishop Brooks' voice warms as he shares what God has done through the church including the following stellar entities.

Head Start - a designated Head Start agent recognized for outstanding leadership in early childhood development administers a \$6-8 million program each year. "The Head Start agency is an umbrella in which we have satellite day care in churches and other community locations in about 8 locations for low income families."

Grandmont Rosedale Park Christian Day School - The private Christian school educates children in grades K-6.

Business Incubator - "I love entrepreneurship (he's a top man in Fortune Hi-tech) and we have a small business incubator where we have nurtured many people to launch their own businesses."

Community Economic Development Corporation -The parent organization for the New St. Paul Housing Corporation where visitors to the 57 unit Faith Manor, located on the church's campus, experience pride as they observe the luxurious multi-level complex. They are also a joint sponsor of the 55-unit Wall Manor complex located in Ann Arbor.

Faith Community Mortgage Company Founded in 2004 - "We



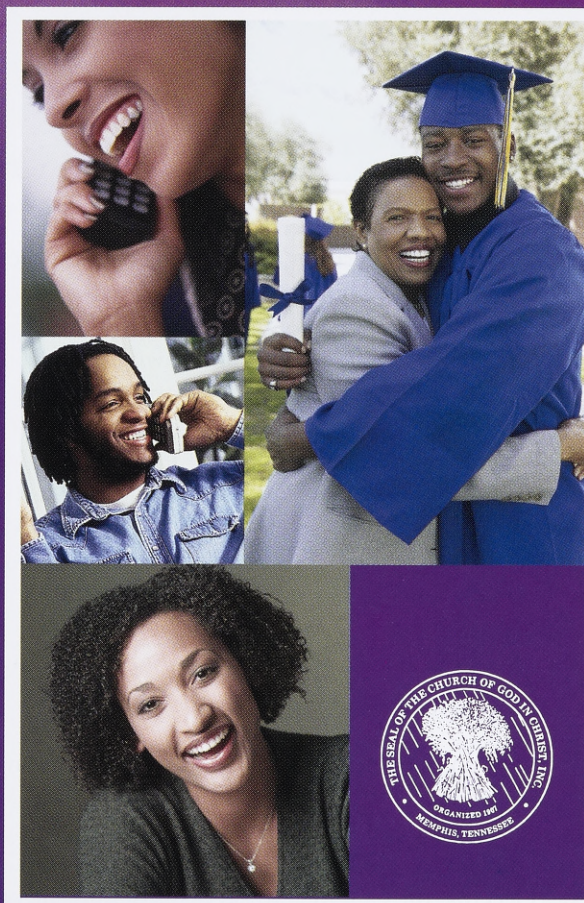
are a lending tool in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. After facing the devastation of Katrina, Elder Mason, a Louisiana pastor was hard pressed to find a mortgage. He made contact after hearing about us at the convocation. Betty Maple and our mortgage team arranged for that family to get the loan they deserved.”

The self-challenging leader is a worshiper and enjoys good music that praises God for His glory. For years he's shared the singing tradition and his gospel message, his March of Faith broadcasts on Radio Station WMUZ 1340 AM, and Sunday mornings on WKBD-CW television. “When we do praise and worship we breathe into it our own individuality. I believe that we as black men are worshipers...it's part of our nature.” To that end a skilled music department was high on his list of priorities. “Because of my music background I thought musicians should be paid...Mattie Clark, Beverly Glen, Thomas Whitfield, Rudolph Standfield...were all part of my music staff at one time.” Frequently asked when he would record some of the songs he sang, he purchased studio equipment and *Alive in Praise* was produced. He was proud to collaborate with his son Philip, producer of his sophomore CD, *Alive in Praise 2*, and daughter Faithe whose introduction with prayer and praise sets the tone for an anointed worship experience. “We have a recording studio on the top floor of the Cathedral. [The projects] are...really what we do in our church.” Because of his legendary music ministry he was honored in October 2006 by being inducted into the Gospel Museum and Hall of Fame.

Optimistic about the future of the Church Of God In Christ, he is excited to serve as the Church's Second Assistant Presiding Bishop. “It was quite an honor to have been selected...and a surprise. I have always supported my leaders and feel that serving in this role is a great opportunity. With great responsibility is great accountability. Serving on the Board with Presiding Bishop Blake, I vow to continue to serve in the spirit that I have always served – as a supporter, and help guide the church for the benefit of our church's ministry. This is a pivotal moment in our history. We represent the contribution of great leaders such as what Bishop Mason presented to the world. One hundred years represents maturity, and we have a good foundation. Historians have said that if organizations can survive the 75th year they can move forward. We...can adjust without forsaking our basic tenets. In our jurisdiction we say we grow giants. The COGIC has nurtured, developed and grown giants. The depth of leadership in our church is quite good. That's why when Bishop Mason died, the Church didn't die. We had great leaders to emerge then and we've got to celebrate and appreciate what we produce now.”

Through his ministry of teaching, preaching, music, writing and sharing, Bishop Brooks' life of service continues to transform. From a shepherd leading a flock in a small Detroit mission church, he became a pastor of a beautiful and well appointed building with members working together. He now serves as a general under the commander of the 6 million-member Christian army called the Church Of God In Christ. ☪

## Send Your Church's News Jurisdiction's Activities or Your Personal Testimony to The Whole Truth



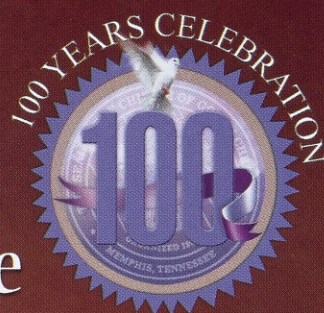
Call: 901-744-0477



# CENTENNIAL VIDEO

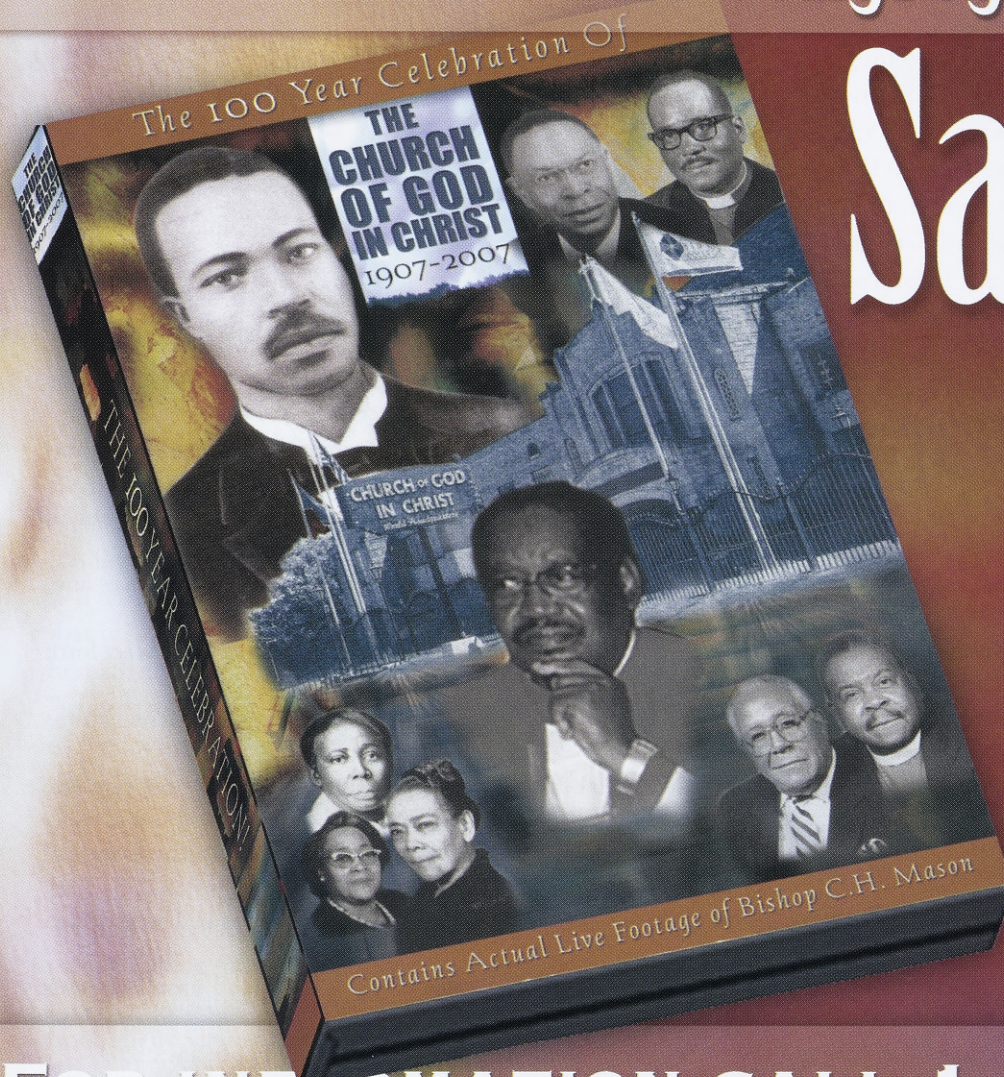
## Double Set Package

\$30.00 each and \$5.00 shipping charge



# Every Home Should Have a Set!

## Pastors Order The Congregation Special!



# Save! Save! Save!

Send To: COGIC Centennial Video  
P.O. Box 22  
Memphis, TN 38101

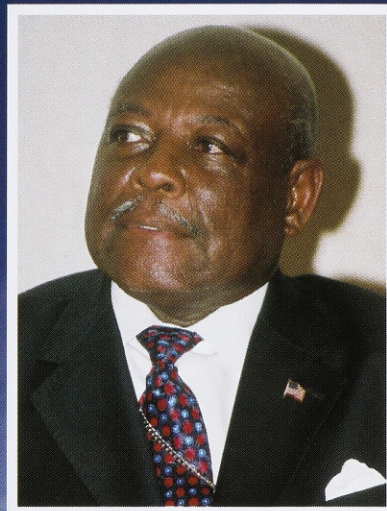
FOR INFORMATION CALL 1-800-947-9350

[WWW.COGIC.ORG](http://WWW.COGIC.ORG)



# Statement of Faith: A Purpose

By Bishop Martin Luther Johnson



## What We Believe!!

Religious denominations, as well as secular institutions, normally have set in writing various statements that set forth the nature and purpose of the organization along with rules that are to govern the organization, goals and objectives and procedures to be employed to achieve the reasons for the organization, the Church Of God In Christ is no exception. One of the most significant documents of the Church Of God In Christ is the Statement of Faith. Within the composition of the Statement of Faith are presented the Biblical and theological bases for our existence as a body of Christian believers. The sole purpose of a Statement of Faith is to set forth in a brief, succinct, readable, and in the most understandable language the core tenets and substance of the Denomination's Faith. The Statement of Faith is the Church's reason for being, and the

basis for Mission, the authority for the gospel the Church promotes and preaches, and the scope of the Church's vision. The Statement of Faith is designed to ensure unity of doctrine, uniformity in practice, and consistency of purpose; the Statement of Faith is a reflection of what the Church teaches and believes and, it is binding on all of the Church's members. Therefore, is set forth this Statement of Faith and Beliefs that these fundamental truths are based on the Holy Scriptures and that the Holy Scriptures are to make known to all humankind our firm belief in the Gospel of the grace of God shown to the world through Jesus Christ, which is built upon the "foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone." Ephesians 2:20.



## Some Reflections on the Essentials of the Church of God in Christ

### Statement of Faith: Explications and Affirmation

#### ARTICLE I

The Statement of Faith, the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, or other statements developed from the Christian Faith for the purpose of setting forth the basic elements of doctrines that express the tenets of the faith of the religious organization would do well if they are based on and grounded in the Holy Scriptures. Therefore before a set of beliefs becomes the guidelines for faith and practice, the best of biblical research coupled with sound interpretation are to be employed. The Statement of Faith of the Church Of God In Christ has withstood the tests of time and remains, as we believe are Bible-based and that they are a divinely orchestrated set of beliefs that are adequate for sound doctrine and Christian behavior. The Statement of Faith evolved as a result of serious biblical research, examination and theological scrutiny, culminating in a document that speaks to who we are doctrinally and theologically as the Church Of God In Christ. The purpose of this series of articles is to further explain and express to the significance and purpose of the Statement of Faith of the Church Of God In Christ. The explication of the Articles of Faith and Practice shall follow in the sequential order in which they appear in the actual Statement as we regularly affirm our Faith. While the articles in this paper express an individual's understandings and interpretations of the Statement of Faith of the Church Of God In Christ, this paper is by no means exhaustive or conclusive, rather, it is tentative.

The first Article is the one in and through which we affirm our faith in the Bible: "We believe the Bible ( the 66 books of the Old Testament and New Testament Canon) to be the inspired and only infallible written word of God" affirms the Church Of God In Christ's belief in and teaching that the Holy Bible is divinely inspired and that it is infallible, without errors and that it is literally true. That suggests and means that the Word of God as it fell from the lips of God was and is without inaccuracies and that it is proper for expressing the mind of God as much as we humans are capable of understanding God's mind and will for us. We believe that the Bible is verbally inspired and that holy men of God wrote as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit and that it is good for doctrine, correction as it pertains to God's plan for human salvation through Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Bible contains adequate, infallible information and instructions for the salvation of humankind and, that the Bible is the final authority in matters of Christian living. We further believe that the appearances of error and fallibility come through translations, transliterations and commentaries that arise from liberal scholarship that is not necessarily divinely inspired. We hold the Holy Bible as the source and norm for inspiration, and as the Book that gets humans as close as possible to the will

of God for holy living and practice. We believe that all humans are susceptible to fallibility and error. While we do not oppose nor prevent our adherents from consulting other books, commentaries and books on the Bible for additional inspiration and insights, we stand firmly on the Holy Bible as the source and guideline for absolute divine truth. Martin Luther the Reformer took the bold stand, *Sola Scriptura*, that Scripture alone is necessary for salvation.

The firm belief in the Scripture as the inspired and only infallible written word of God reflects a one-hundred year tradition of the Church Of God In Christ in the beliefs that God acted in the history of humankind and that through that divine revelation the Word of God was not only given to prophets and wise men of old, but that the Word was also given to Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. While the Statement of Faith as we know it today was not formulated by Bishop Mason, the tenets of Bishop Mason's beliefs are incorporated therein. Thus, "The Church Of God In Christ Is A Church Of The Lord Jesus Christ In Which The Word of God is preached..." It is inevitable that during one's pursuit for a deeper knowledge of the Holy Scripture there appear texts, chapters and verses that leave us pondering with a degree of uncertainty because of the apparent ambiguities contained therein. However, our full acceptance of the written Word of God does not suggest a full understanding of every jot, every tittle, every line, rather it suggests faith in the Word of God as being true. ( Isaiah 55:8-10; Jeremiah 33:3). The core of the biblical record goes far beyond debates; the Scriptures allow us as individuals to dig deeply beneath what meets us at the surface level of the text and find our very lives within the pages of the Book, the Book that is the inspired and infallible written Word of God. Our faith in the Word of God should go beyond simply believing to the level of totally and completely relying on God. This is the course of action and the response of one who believes that the Bible is inspired and infallible.

#### ARTICLE II

The second sentence that reflects the Faith of the Church has to do with the affirmation of our faith in God, which affirms the following: "We believe that there is one God eternally existent in three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit (Ghost). This affirmation comprises the core of the Trinitarian doctrine and is a tenet of our Faith that distinguishes the Church Of God In Christ from the "Jesus Only" denominations. Much discussion and heated theological debates have taken place on the very subject, not necessarily on the one God belief but the question of His existence in three persons. The debates have centered on the possibility of whether Jesus is God almighty, or whether there is a distinct difference between Jesus and God. The question seems to be whether there is the "One in Threeness, or the Three-ness in One", or is there One God expressed



in Three persons, or personalities, or are there Three Gods expressed in one person? Suffice it to say that the Early Church Fathers spent many days, weeks, months and even years involved in biblical, historical, cultural, philosophical and theological discussions that necessitated the convening of Church Councils to resolve differences in theologies.

As a Trinitarian Church, we believe in God the Father as eternal personal Spirit Who is the Creator and sustainer of the world and all humankind. We believe that the physical universe of nature is the visible declaration of God's existence as is revealed in the Scripture. The reality of the Triune God is self-evident in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Ghost; He is revealed in Scripture and in redemption as the Son of God and, in the execution of the divine plan in salvation history as the Holy Ghost (Spirit) as His continuous presence with humankind in the world. His presence is referred to as the Comforter (paracletus, the go alongside, the guide, or the third Person in the Trinity), the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of truth. Therefore we, the members of the Church Of God In Christ, confess our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, revealed to the world in bodily form in the person of Jesus Christ. The pagan gods of the ancient world were never revealed to their adherents in flesh (sarx), but God allowed Himself to be revealed to His creation in the person of Jesus Christ, incarnate. Jesus Christ was not a phantom, or a mere image of God, he was fully God and fully man in the flesh. His Son, Jesus Christ, who by coming in human flesh and his suffering in our place on the cross atoned for the world, removed our guilt of sin, bridged the chasm between God and man and placed man again on speaking terms with God.

The Holy Ghost as the third Person in the Trinity dwells in the believers regenerated hearts (total being) where He leads and guides the regenerate daily into the path of grace and truth. It is He who is in the world of humankind today to ensure that the work of salvation is brought to its final purpose in humankind.

### ARTICLE III

The third sentence of our Statement of Faith, "We believe in the blessed Hope, which is the rapture of the Church of God, which is in Christ, at His return", is an end time eschatological hope held by the Church Of God In Christ as our firm belief that the world of humankind is headed toward a definite end. This futuristic view is reflective of Old Testament prophecy as is seen in Joel, Amos and in the Book of Daniel. The eschaton refers to an end, or the end of history, the end of the world and the end of humankind on earth as we know it. The end (eschaton) of foreign domination in the mind of some Old Testament thinkers was the Messianic age, while others understood it as the end of the world as seen in Joel 2:30-32. The New Testament Christian Community was an eschatological, or an end time community;

they continually awaited the return of the Lord. The early Church was a waiting congregation in the sense that the Lord would appear at any moment to rapture the Church. This idea, or reality is indicated in the teachings of Jesus as is seen in Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 10:18 where Jesus points to an end time community with his references the dividing of sheep and the fall of Satan from heaven (the celestial realm, upper atmosphere, not from the abode of God) as lightning ( a rapid speed).

The Church Of God In Christ's faith in the blessed hope is consistent with the faith of the church during the Pauline era. However, by the time of Paul the Christian Community had begun to make the shift from Messianic expectations to that of Apocalyptic calculations. Messianic expectations suggest an arrival of a deliverer while apocalyptic calculations advance a time table based upon certain events and occurrences in nature, as are seen in both Old and New Testament understandings: Isaiah 2: 12, 13:6,9; Zephaniah 1:7; Malachi 4:5-6; I Corinthians 5:5; II Corinthians 13:2; I Thessalonians 5:2; I Peter 3:10. It is interesting that each of the texts quoted above uses the term, "The Day of the Lord" and not the "Lord's Day." The "Day of the Lord" is an eschatological, or an end time expression that alludes to the end while the "Lord's Day" refers to the Christian Sabbath, Sunday. Our faith in the blessed Hope and in the rapture of the Church is grounded in the Earliest Christian Hope as is expressed by the Apostle Paul as seen in I Thessalonians 4:13-17; however, while we understand II Thessalonians 2:3 as an apocalyptic table which suggests the events to appear before the coming of the Lord to rapture His Church, that no less diminishes our blessed Hope in the rapture of the Church of God.

The shift from the Messianic expectations to that of Apocalyptic calculations suggests a realization, or a feeling, that perhaps the rapture was no longer as definitely imminent as the Christians had previously expected; rather, while the shift placed a new emphasis on apocalyptic calculations, there is no less an expectation of the rapture of the Church. While the Church Of God In Christ believes that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the Messianic hope as is promised in Holy Scriptures, we look forward to the ultimate and final consummation of the world and we expect to be raptured as members of the body of Christ at the return of Jesus Christ, I Thessalonians 4:16-18. The Church Of God In Christ's affirmation of and belief in immortality and life after human death became and is the driving force of the Blessed Hope.

### ARTICLE IV

We believe that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We believe that regeneration by the Holy Ghost is absolutely essential for personal salvation. The key aspects of this Article of Faith are the prerequisites to be "...cleansed from sin



through repentance..." and the belief that cleansing from sin necessitates repentance. The word repentance is the English rendering of the Greek word "Metanoia" (meta-noia), which means a change of heart, mind and direction. The word further suggests remorsefulness, and an expression of sorrow on the part of the person who repents of sin. In some situations there are present outward and visible indicators (Matthew 3:8) that one has, or is repenting. Based upon the Holy Scripture, we believe repentance to be an absolute necessity for one who desires to receive cleanness from sin. The Article emphasizes the element of faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, which is the ultimate and final divine agent that cleanses and absolves one of sin. Sin is the English rendering of the Greek word harmartia, sin, and harmartiology, the study of sin. Sin is disobedience to the will of God. Sin is violation of the divine Law. Sin is transgression, missing the mark, and it is a reflection of our sinful nature transmitted to all the family of Adam, (Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:12).

This Article of Faith emphasizes the belief that regeneration is essential to salvation, but that it is a work performed by the Holy Ghost who takes the initiative on the behalf of the sinners' personal salvation. While man is responsible for initiating the repentant process by becoming sorrowful for his personal sins, the Holy Ghost, who is the third Person of the Trinity, initiates the regenerative process. We believe that the Holy Spirit takes an active role in convincing the sinner of the need for regeneration

and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit who empowers, under girds the repentant and regenerated sinner for godly living and spiritual service.

The Church Of God In Christ's doctrinal statement as it relates to regeneration defines the process of regeneration as "That act of God by which the principle of the new life is implanted in man, and the governing disposition of soul is made holy and the first holy exercise of this new disposition is served..." Regeneration, or the new birth, is a true act of the Christian life, apart from which there is no Christianity. Regeneration is an act of God by which the fallen sinner is created anew and is brought from death to life in Jesus Christ. The doctrine, or teaching of regeneration, is first taught by Jesus during his encounter with Nicodemus who was told by Jesus that "Ye must be born again (John 3:7)," a teaching which places Nicodemus along with every other sinner who needs the regenerative experience. The regenerative process is initiated by the Holy Spirit as the operator ( the user), while the Word is the instrument (that which is used to perform the operation) to execute the process (James 1:18; I Peter 1: 23). ☉

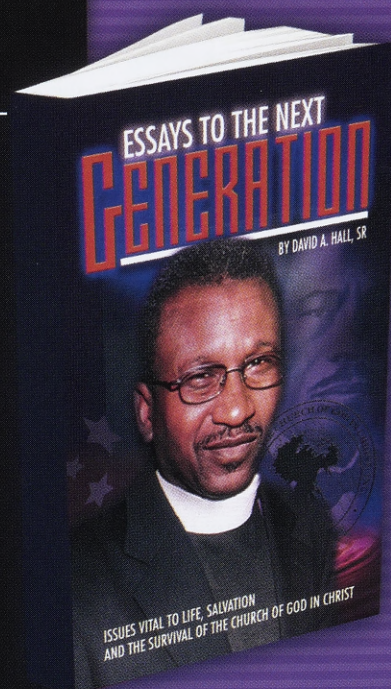
## Essays to the Next Generation

By David A. Hall, Sr.

TEN ESSAYS TO THE PRESENT AND COMING GENERATIONS  
ON ISSUES VITAL TO LIFE, SALVATION AND THE SURVIVAL OF  
THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

1. WHY THE ELECTION OF 2000 WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT SINCE 1968
2. TITHING: SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR LOCAL AND NATIONAL CHURCH
3. STEM CELL RESEARCH: MURDER OR MEDICINE?
4. ABORTION: IMMORAL DECISION AND THE COGIC RESPONSE
5. CAN WE SAVE THIS ORGANIZATION? EFFECTIVE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENCY
6. INTERRELATING WITH THE COGIC JUDICIARY BOARD
7. ECUMENICAL RELATIONS: AN EMERGING POLICY
8. GAY RIGHTS! RESPONSE OF THE SANCTIFIED CHURCH
9. WOMEN'S ORDINATION, HAS ITS TIME COME?
10. WARI AND COGIC CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION

Buy This  
Book and  
Be Challenged!



TEMPLE COGIC  
672 SO. LAUDERDALE BLVD.  
901.775.1909



# The Dreamer Cometh!



Bishop C.E. and Mrs. Mae Blake

In its period of transition, the Church Of God In Christ is currently under the leadership of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. of Los Angeles, California. Bishop Blake has blended a unique combination of administrative skills, global vision and spiritual focus. Clearly, he represents the contemporary face of global Pentecostalism by advancing spiritual, economic, educational and familial initiatives within the denomination.

As a seasoned churchman, his inclusive leadership style has provided the opportunity for broad based participation of the membership.

He is the pastor of West Angeles Church of God in Christ with a membership of over 24,000. West Angeles is deeply involved in providing not only for the spiritual life of its people, but also it provides more than 80 programs for the psychological, social and economic enhancement of the community. As founder and CEO of Save Africa's Children, Bishop Blake oversees the support of more than 100 thousand children, in 340 orphan care programs, throughout more than 23 nations on the continent of Africa.

At the millennium quadrennial election, Bishop Blake ascended to the office of First Assistant Presiding Bishop in addition to serving for decades as a General Board Member. In addition, he served as founding Chairman of the Board of Directors for C.H. Mason Theological Seminary and served as Editor of the Y.P.W.W. topics. He has served as an Executive Committee mem-

ber on the Board of Directors of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary; Chairman of Oral Roberts University Board of Directors Executive Committee, Director of the International Charismatic Bible Ministries; and Director of the Los Angeles Azusa Centennial Celebration.

Bishop Blake has received numerous awards, commendations, and accolades from government, civic, and ecumenical entities.

As a trained theologian, he has authored many noted publications which include: "Encountering God" and "Dreamers are Coming" (Freedom to Dream). His celebrated philosophy is: "I see you in the future and you look much better than you look right now."

Bishop Blake is married to Mae Lawrence Blake. They have three children and eight grandchildren. Of the three children, who are employed by the West Angeles Church, two are ordained elders who serve as adjutants to their father in community and religious circles. ☺

[www.cogicpresidingbishop.org](http://www.cogicpresidingbishop.org)

[This article was reprinted from The Global Ambassador Newsletter which highlighted the C.H. Mason Founder's Day Celebration in Detroit, MI, 2007]





# ADVOCATE

## COGIC Scholars Fellowship



Volume 5, Issue 2  
May/June 2007

### DATES TO REMEMBER

AIM Convention  
July 2-6  
Louisville, KY  
[www.cogic.org](http://www.cogic.org)

Holy Convocation  
November 5-13  
Memphis, TN  
[www.cogic.org](http://www.cogic.org)

AAR/SBL  
November 17-20  
San Diego, CA  
[www.aarweb.org](http://www.aarweb.org)

### Inside this issue:

Coordinator Speaks	1
Oral History and COGIC History	1-3
AIM 2007	4
Ph.D Programs	4
Founder's Day Book	5
Announcements	5
Book Review	6
DVD set	7
African American Pulpit	7
What are COGIC Scholars Doing	8
New Members	8
In Memoriam	8

## COORDINATOR SPEAKS

It is with great anticipation that I am looking forward to the COGIC Scholars gathering at the AIM Convention. It is always a wonderful time of wholesome fellowship that is intellectually invigorating and spiritually enriching. This year's group of scholars is sure to provoke some stimulating conversation and dialogue (see AIM article below). I hope that you will join us in Louisville, KY, July 3<sup>rd</sup> through July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Also, in this newsletter you will bear witness to the great and wonderful things that God is doing in and among us.

\*\*\*Elder Raynard Smith

## Oral History of Pentecostalism and COGIC History

Scott Bradley, BS, ThS

The preservation of history through story-telling is common among every culture throughout time, from the largest societies to the smallest families. Historians have often traced history through these stories and have often found them very accurate. In fact, *history* is "his story".

Even God told Israel to keep this history of the nation alive through oral traditions and story-telling.

*"And thou shalt teach them diligently to children,  
and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thy house,  
and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest  
down and when thou risen up" (Deuteronomy 6:7)*

The preservation of African-American history has been best preserved by this means more so that any written history because of the racial bias that has been prevalent in America for centuries. Even today most American history books do little if any to tell the role of African-Americans in the building of the nation to the greatness that it has become today. The fact is that without the contributions of Black Americans, there would be no America as we know it today. The tradition of story-telling can also be traced back to Africa for many of the African-American slaves in the 1800's could be traced back to the continent in merely two or three generations. Although in some cases, because of the frequent sale of slaves which broke up families, the slaves themselves may not have known their African ancestors. But the African influence very much affected African-American culture in agriculture, language, music, and story-telling.

During the 1930's there were ongoing projects by the government-sponsored Works Projects Administration (WPA) to interview former slaves that yielded recordings known today as "slave narratives." Many of the surviving slaves, though at that time in their 80's and above, told their stories of both what they witnessed and what was passed on to them by their ancestors. From what one remembers and what has been passed down through oral traditions it is *possible* that any generation can cover almost 200 years.



A perfect example of this is Alex Haley's book, *Roots*, which was a compilation of oral history through his family that he eventually was able to trace all the way back to Africa; covering about 200 years. As we have moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century more historians as well as genealogists have better understood the importance of collaborating to preserve history that otherwise would die with the previous generations. Too often the stories have died with the story-teller and future generations have either ignored or failed to record the rich history that quite possibly could have made a different impact upon the future generations and the society for which they would help develop.

The mistake that African-Americans have often made is that we let others tell our story and therefore we often receive a distorted or even fabricated version, favoring the story-teller themselves above those for whom the subject is about. Hollywood has done this through the decades and still does this today, often portraying Blacks as slow-witted and lazy or on today's screen as sassy, over-sexed, comedic buffoons. Louis B Meyer, co-founder of MGM studios stated in 1917, "*My job is to teach America...*" It is this teaching however, that has reinforced negative stereotypes in American culture often misrepresenting and even falsely presenting stories to the viewing audiences. One must always keep in mind that Hollywood's motive is to win accolades, but history's motive is to preserve the true story. True history is preserved by the eye-witness in the stories that are passed down from those who were there.

The preservation of oral history also gives one a greater sense of contribution as well as one's sense of worth. Oral history connects one first hand and causes one to look at the subject of dull events, one now sees him/herself in history, placing his/her ancestors whereabouts during major dates, times, and places.

*Often stories are interpreted by the mentality of the people at that time. Even when one reads the bible, the infallible word of God, one must sometimes understand that the writers wrote what they understood.*

It is important to also remember that oral characters and even take on a life of their own. It is, however, that determine what indeed is fact from fiction. It should also sometimes truth can be stranger than fiction. Often stories are people at that time. Even when one reads the Bible, the sometimes understand that the writers wrote what they for example, wrote of stars falling from heaven (Revelation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century that we have a broader range of understanding John saw could have been a meteor, asteroid or comet. We therefore history that may have a strange sound to it is not necessarily a lie or myth, but an interpretation of what people understood at that particular time.

traditions have a tendency to fabricate the diligent research of these stories be considered, however, that interpreted by the mentality of the infallible word of God, one must understood. When Apostle John 6:13, 8:11), we better understand of heavenly bodies. The stars that can better understand that oral

### Oral History of Pentecostalism

Until recently much of the history of the Pentecostal movement was oral and not wide-spread amongst mainstream religious history. In fact, most of the history was preserved within the COGIC because many of the eye-witnesses, which included Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, were still alive in the first part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. By the time of the 50's and 60's the Azusa street mission was no longer in existence, Bishop William J Seymour, who most now recognized as the father of the modern day Pentecostal movement was dead, and therefore most of the present history was derived from the eye-witnesses themselves that preserved the history orally.

Synonymous with Pentecostalism is glossolalia (speaking in tongues). This is also how the movement became known as "Pentecostal" because of the descending of the Holy Ghost on the Jewish festival of Pentecost (meaning fifty) which was celebrated fifty days after the Passover. On that day the Holy Ghost



descended upon the church and the evidence was the experience of glossolalia (Acts 2:1-4). What is now known as the Azusa Street Revival of 1906 was conducted in Los Angeles, California by a black evangelist named William J Seymour. People came from all over the country and even different parts of the world to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in tongues. Because the Pentecostal movement was considered "black" though not exclusively (not necessarily by the churches themselves, but Seymour, Mason and many of the attendees were black) not much attention was paid to it by mainstream historians until the mid 50's and 60's. In fact, in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century many considered Pentecostalism a cult. In one meeting a reporter from the Los Angeles Daily Times was sent to the revival and ridiculed it in the local press calling it, "a new sect of fanatics..."

At the same time that a major earthquake devastated San Francisco, California in 1906, the Lord was shaking the foundations of Los Angeles with a miracle revival, pouring out His Holy Spirit on the attendees. Bishop Mason along with a few others from Memphis went to Los Angeles to investigate. It was there that Bishop Mason meet Bishop Seymour and he received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, experiencing the glossolalian phenomena and later tells his experience in his sermons years later. It is recorded for posterity.

*"The Spirit came upon the saints and upon me...then I gave up for the lord to have His way within me. So there came a wave of glory into me and all of my being was filled with the glory of the Lord. So when he had gotten me straight on my feet, there came a light which envelope my entire being above the brightness of the sun. When I opened my mouth to say Glory, a flame touched my tongue and ran down me. My language changed and no word could I speak in my own tongue. Oh! I was filled with the glory of the Lord. My soul was satisfied"*

When he returned to Memphis and told this experience to his companions in the gospel it became cause for debate and the eventual split between Bishop Mason and Bishop Charles Price Jones. Bishop Jones and others believed that the experience of glossolalia was a "delusion" and the General Assembly voted to withdraw the *Right Hand of Fellowship* from Bishop Mason. Bishop Mason however, called an assembly for those who believed in the experience and hence, the Church of God In Christ as we know it today, was born. Court struggles over the next few years eventually moved in Bishop Mason's favor and he was finally allowed to use the name Church of God in Christ.

As time progressed in 1914 the Assemblies of God emerged from the COGIC. Pentecostalism is the only major denomination in America to start with black congregants and have whites emerged from its movement. However, in the early writing of their history they ignored Bishop Seymour altogether, choosing to follow the racism that defined the country by either minimizing, ignoring or writing black contributions out of the history. Even as the Centennial celebration was heralded by the churches in 2006, strangely among Christian television ads and documentaries more white faces appeared and black faces seemed to disappear as founders and early pioneers of the Pentecostal movement. Had it not been for oral preservation, Blacks might have disappeared from this history as well. Still others maintain that COGIC and AOG are sister churches both emerging from the Azusa street revival. This again is historically inaccurate as it was Bishop Mason who first began to ordain white ministers, and they carried COGIC credentials until 1914 when the AOG came into existence. Therefore, the preservation of oral history among the black members became that much more important.

Bishop William Seymour is almost like a John the Baptist figure in that, while other men and denominations emerged from the Pentecostal movement his ministry seemed to decrease and not much is known about him in later years. He died on September 28<sup>th</sup> 1922. Some oral traditions have him dying as a lonely and frustrated man. There are countless oral histories from this movement, some have gone to the grave with the eye-witnesses, but many have survived, including countless healings and miracles. Had it nor been for the eye-witnesses and oral historians Bishop Seymour might have been a forgotten man in history. ( **Cont'd in next issue**)



## COGIC SCHOLARS ACADEMIC FORUM AT AIM 2007

Each year in the month of July our thoughts turn towards attending the AIM Convention. This year the COGIC Scholars Academic Forum will converge on the city of Louisville, Kentucky as part of the activities and events sponsored under the auspices of the AIM 2007 Convention. Tuesday through Friday we will be meeting from 2pm to 4:30pm in Room 114 of the Kentucky International Convention Center. I am exceptionally proud to say that we will be featuring some of COGIC's finest, producing some of their best works. The academic forum will begin on Tuesday with Evangelists Glenda Goodson and Romanetha Stallworth presenting from their work on Bishop Allie T. Moore who is the only remaining Bishop appointed by Bishop C.H. Mason. Bishop Moore pastors in Louisville and he is the prelate of the Kentucky First jurisdiction. We are hopeful to have some of his family members present with us as we celebrate his life and work. Immediately following this presentation we will hear from Dr. Leonard Lovett presenting from the revised version of his book, *Kingdom Beyond Color: Re-examining the Phenomenon of Racism*. On Wednesday we will return to hear from one of COGIC's own New Testament scholars, Dr. Eric Greaux, lead us in a discussion on *Color of the Cross* a movie that depicts Jesus as a black man. I encourage you to either purchase a copy of this movie or rent it and view it for yourself so that you may be able to add to the richness of a discussion that is sure to be provocative. Following Dr. Greaux's presentation, one of our

most recent Ph.D.s, Dr. Adrian Manley, will present research from his doctoral dissertation, entitled "Exploring the Attitudes, Beliefs, Preparation and Practices of African American Clergy in Premarital Counseling." On Thursday we will return to a book panel discussion in which we will be celebrating the recent publication of Dr. Robert Franklin's new release, *Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities*. Our panelists, Dr. Harold Bennett (dean of C.H. Mason Seminary); Rev. Willia Brown (COGIC pastor and CPE supervisory candidate at Mt Sinai Medical Center); and Sister Keri Day Harrison (Ph.D. candidate at Vanderbilt University), will be responding to Franklin's critique of the Black academy, the Black Church, and the Black family, respectively. And last but not least on Friday we will reconvene for our last session of the AIM Convention. Dr. Rufus Sanders a W.J. Seymour scholar in his own right will be presenting from his latest book which is a compilation of Seymour's papers. Immediately following his presentation Dr. Marvel Parker will discuss her book *Breaking the Silence: The Impact of HIV/AIDS on African American Women and the Silence of the Church*. For each of these sessions there will be opportunities to purchase books, greet the authors and have your copy autographed. Your attendance at these sessions is a sure guarantee to provoke your thinking, for we all know that "iron sharpens iron."

## REGENT UNIVERSITY Ph.D PROGRAMS

Regent University School of Divinity (Virginia Beach, Virginia) has a new PhD program in Renewal Studies. There are two tracks: Renewal History and Renewal Theology. The Renewal History program (coordinator: Stanley M. Burgess – see [http://www.regent.edu/acad/schdiv/faculty\\_staff/faculty/burgess.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/acad/schdiv/faculty_staff/faculty/burgess.cfm)) focuses on Pentecostal and charismatic movements and their theological and doctrinal distinctives throughout the history of the church, with special focus on twentieth century renewal traditions. The Renewal Theology program (coordinator: Amos Yong – see [http://www.regent.edu/acad/schdiv/faculty\\_staff/faculty/yong.cfm](http://www.regent.edu/acad/schdiv/faculty_staff/faculty/yong.cfm)) emphasizes biblical, systematic, and constructive aspects of Pentecostal and/or charismatic theologies or theologies informed by Pentecostal-charismatic traditions.

The PhD program's non-traditional mode of delivery means that students will not have to relocate to

Virginia Beach so long as they can be on campus for course instruction for two weeks in October, two weeks in February, and the month of June for each of the first three (or four) years of the "residential" component of the program. The program includes comprehensive qualifying examinations and a dissertation featuring original research and/or theological reflection. The PhD program coordinators and faculty are especially looking for the opportunity to work with those interested in studying black Pentecostal and charismatic movements – whether of the African American, Afro-Caribbean, black British, African, or African Diaspora churches – or those expecting to engage in theological reflection out of participation in these churches and traditions. Prospective students need a Master of Divinity degree (from a fully accredited seminary, divinity school, or graduate school) or its equivalence in order to apply for the program. Further details can be obtained at [www.regent.edu/divphd](http://www.regent.edu/divphd).



## C H MASON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY FOUNDER'S DAY

The C. H. Mason Theological Seminary Founder's Day events were an astounding success. Dr. Harold Bennett, dean of the seminary, did a terrific job in putting together a wonderful theological discussion integrating Dr. David Hall's book *Essays to the Next Generation* with research on Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. COGIC Scholars Drs. David Daniels, Michelle Jacques Early, Fred Ware, Jamal-Dominique Hopkins, Evangelist Glenda Goodson and I were on tap as presenters. Each did a fantastic job presenting on the following subjects: a general overview of COGIC history, COGIC's institutional structure, ecumenical thrust, stem cell research, women in ministry, and conscientious objection. Yet, the highlight of these events was Dr. Bennett's inaugural service. Congratulations to Dr. Bennett for a job done exceedingly well.

## BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS

Robert M. Franklin, *Crisis in the Village: Restoring Hope in African American Communities* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 2007, 208pp. \$15 (pbk).

Robert M. Franklin provides first-person advice and insight as he identifies the crises resident within three anchor institutions that have played key roles in the black struggle for freedom. Black families face a "crisis of commitment" evident in the rising rates of father absence, births to unmarried parents, divorce, and domestic abuse or relationship violence.

Black churches face a "mission crisis" as they struggle to serve their upwardly mobile and/or established middle class "paying customers" alongside the poorest of the poor.

Historically black colleges and universities face a crisis of "relevance and purpose" as they now compete for the best students and faculty with the broad marketplace of colleges. With clarity and passion, Franklin calls for practical and comprehensive action for change from within the African American community and from all Americans.

Leonard Lovett, *Kingdom Beyond Color: Re-Examining the Phenomenon of Racism* Xlibris Press, 2007, 179pp., \$17.84 (bk).

Racism is an international phenomenon. *Kingdom Beyond Color* is a passionate response to same. However, color rather than caste is the defining norm for race as we understand it today. While discrimination is the life blood of prejudice, such prejudice preys upon ignorance. Racism once critically defined as a fundamental spiritual phenomenon with psychosocial manifestations and implications holds far more promise for its resolution than when it is defined one-dimensionally. Most prominent talk shows and many social commentators never define racism. It is far too often confused with prejudice and bigotry, thus leading those who seek resolution with the wrong point of departure. If the premise and point of departure is incorrect, the conclusion invariably must in fact be questionable. KBC seeks to demonstrate that when prejudice is linked with power and used to subjugate others based on the pigmentation of their skin, racism exists. The Faith Community is indicted for its complicity and silence and simultaneously held high for its promise to lead the way through word and deed. Lovett carefully avoided the temptation to provide a "quick fix" or one-dimensional set of simplistic answers to the complex issue of racism. This book represents the culmination of thought about the resolution of racism for just over three decades from one who has been on the front line of struggle and continues to participate in on going conversation and dialogue. From the activist sixties marching with Dr. King while a student at Morehouse, to the recent "Memphis Miracle" confab on racism and racial reconciliation, this author has been passionately pre-occupied with the quest for racial justice. As a trained ethicist who has taught courses and as an urban pastor who has preached sermons and protested injustice in three urban arena's, Philadelphia, Atlanta and Los Angeles, Lovett is prepared to make a definitive prescriptive statement on the resolution of racism in our time. It is not enough to simply describe the problem. It is virtually impossible to seriously receive the Kingdom of God and remain racist. The reading of *Kingdom Beyond Color* will result in three key benefits for the reader: First, it engages the reader with a descriptive view of racism. Secondly, it contains a historical narrative approach that broadens the reader's perspective and arms one with an intuitive grasp of strategies within the reservoir of our Judaea-Christian faith that can lead to creative approaches to the resolution of one of the most urgent domestic concerns of our times. Thirdly, it seeks to provide a "tough love" practical approach grounded in biblical and ethical insights for the lay reader as well as professional scholars who are serious about "doing justice." It is intended to prepare persons for the long journey toward justice for the 'least among us.'



## BOOK REVIEW

Omar M. McRoberts, *Streets of Glory: Church and Community in a Black Urban Neighborhood*. (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2003), 150pp. (pbk), \$25.00.

There are many approaches to the study of urban-area churches and Omar McRoberts chooses one of the most difficult: research. He states, "The challenge of my research was to collect information of sufficient breadth and depth to present something combining both landscape and portrait... The result is part analysis and anatomy of a local urban system, part religious cultural interpretation: part structure, part meaning." (152-123). This approach is not the most popular form of reading but McRoberts exhibits many interesting point in *Streets of Glory*, a review of twenty-nine churches in a community described as Four Corners in Boston, Massachusetts. The author demonstrates, through his empirical data, that location of a church does not designate whether it is an "urban" church but it is the mind-set of the pastor and congregation. The book describes how only two of the churches with an outreach to the surrounding community while most of these churches exhibit "drive-in" characteristics—the church is in the community but the community is not in the church.

McRoberts gives an overall historic view of the formation of Four Corners and how only four of the pastors can identify the community in this manner. He implies that most of these churches are in this area for the reasonable rent and have relocated from other areas. The congregation came with the church and most social interaction occurs within the church domain. There is not a fully developed sense of "fellowship" with the churches within the community or with the residents of the community. Much of the book deals with the issue of Religious Particularism or what are the divisions for the churches: Northern Blacks, Southern Migrant Blacks, West Indian Immigrants, as well as by denominations; the author states, "These churches were particularistic spaces that offered distinctive worship and hand-tailored social and material opportunities for congregants." (42). His description of these drive-in churches explains how "dozens of churches coexisted by not competing for the same local membership pool." (50).

This scholarship points out the significant urban area problems and the responses of the churches to these issues—whether to evangelize or avoid the critical issues of the neighborhood. The book also stresses the unfortunate attitude that some of the churches have on making a positive impact on the surrounding community because they are not connected or concerned with the residents: one pastor even expressed fear of being in the neighborhood at night. There are, however, two churches that are following the urban ministry concept: the Azusa Christian Community Church (affiliated with COGIC)—with Rev. Eugene Rivers as pastor—and the Grace Methodist Church. They are actively involved in the improvement and social transformation of the community. This could affect the status of some of the storefront churches for as community empowerment occurs, these churches may be displaced or "bounced" (55-58, 126-127).

As a member of COGIC and as a Pentecostal, I am pleased with the accurate depiction given in this book (38 & 97); even though the overall tone exemplifies that the church as "hub" of the community takes on a different aspect. The strategy is to assist congregants and not the residents except in the aforementioned urban ministry churches. This approach shows how the mind-set of the body determines whether to be a fortress or haven concerning the body of Christ in community. My heart is pleased that persons associated with COGIC or Pentecostalism are reaching out to the community. My prayer is that others learn to do the same thing.

McRoberts states that this book "challenges both scholarship and policy to focus more on the actual behaviors and inclinations of religious institutions in depressed urban neighborhoods. Particular attention should be paid to the urban religious districts: the dense, diverse religious ecologies that appear as symptoms of neighborhood decline yet contain richly complex forms of community." (150). *Streets of Glory* is not an easy to read book, but a must-read to determine what attitudes are expressed to the community by the church, especially those led by COGIC pastors in the tradition of the mandate set by Bishop C. H. Mason. Read, learn and understand that it is our privilege to assist in the transformation of any community from "streets of misery" to *Streets of Glory*.

Elder George H. Taylor, Jr., M.Div., Associate minister, Trinity Temple COGIC, Montclair, NJ



## Special DVD Set Of COGIC's First 100 Years

Celebrate 100 years of the Church of God in Christ-1907 to 2007! This historical visual narrative is told not only by vintage Pentecostal historians. . .but through the recall of former Presiding Bishops, Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr., Bishop L. H. Ford, Bishop C. D. Owens, and the late Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson.

From distinguished leaders of the church one can reflect and share personal memories, anecdotes woven into the pilgrimage where the Saints have trod. It is a journey blessed by signs and wonders, sacrifice and suffering all forming a mosaic that reflects- The First 100 Years of The Church of God in Christ!

Copies of this DVD set can be obtained by contacting K. Healing Love 827 Hollywood Way #551, Burbank, CA 91505; (818) 504-4024 or [emailangel@aol.com](mailto:emailangel@aol.com)

## THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PULPIT 20 TO WATCH GUIDELINES

The African American Pulpit is currently accepting nominations for its acclaimed "20 to Watch" list. The "20 to Watch" list features young (40 years of age or younger) ministers, pastors, scholars, and preachers who are making a difference in their community. Below are the guidelines for nominations:

1. The nominee must be 40 years of age or younger (born in or after June 1968) at the time of the Summer 2008 issue's printing, has made valuable contributions to ministry, and shows promise for continual leadership in the church, academy, or other ministry position.\*
2. Each nomination should include a paragraph (200 words or less) detailing why the minister is someone to watch.
3. Nominations should include a biography of the person and his/her ministry accomplishments. The bio must be 1 page or less-NO EXCEPTIONS.
4. Full contact information (phone, e-mail address, and mailing address) of the nominee and the nominator is required with submission.
5. The selection of the "20 to Watch" is based primarily on work in ministry. Scholarship and homiletic approach are also considered. Therefore, if the person nominating the minister has a written, original sermon (2,500 words or less) or article (1,200 words or less) from the minister available to send, the sermon or article may be submitted with the nomination. No CDs or tapes can be accepted. If an article or sermon is not submitted with the nomination, finalists will be expected to submit a sermon within 10 days of request from TAAP staff. Articles will be judged based upon: originality, coherency and thorough analysis of selected subject matter, relevance/usefulness for the 21st Century African American Church, creativity, and adherence to word limit (1,200 words or less). Sermons will be judged based upon: focus, flow, creativity in approaching the text, exegesis of text(s) used, and adherence to length (2,500 words or less).
6. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, August 31, 2007 at 5 p.m. CST. Send nominations to [taapco\\_editor@yahoo.com](mailto:taapco_editor@yahoo.com). ONLY E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

\*Verification of age and/or educational credential is required if requested. The Selection Committee will focus on the nominee's overall work in ministry and their sermon or article, not the number of times that a preacher is nominated. Friends, preachers, and church members are asked NOT to repeatedly nominate a candidate. Only one nomination per preacher is sufficient.

## WHAT COGIC SCHOLARS ARE DOING

Oscar Owens (Los Angeles, CA) writes, "I have entered a Doctor of Ministry program at Azusa Pacific University's Haggard School of Theology."

Eric Lewis Williams writes to let us know that he is back in Birmingham, England working towards the completion of his dissertation.

### *Congratulations to...*

Dr. Anthea Butler (Rochester, NY) and Dr. David Daniels (Chicago, IL) for their contribution to the award winning PBS show The American Experience which aired on April 2 featuring an episode on Aimee Semple McPherson, Pentecostal healing evangelist and founder of the Foursquare denomination.



Dean Cochren (Madison, NJ) upon graduating from Drew Theological Seminary, Saturday, May 19th.

Dr. Robert Franklin (Atlanta, GA) upon his appointment as the 10th President of Morehouse College.

Dr. Johnnie Harrison (Melborne, FL) upon graduating with a Ph.D. in Biblical Studies from North Carolina College of Theology.

Dr. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev (Houston, TX) for her article--"Constructing Good Success: The Church of God in Christ and Social Uplift in East Texas, 1910-1935," Volume XLIV, Spring 2006—receiv[ing] the C.K. Chamberlain Award, sponsored by the East Texas Historical Association.

Raynard Smith (Edison, NJ) upon his appointment as Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Pastoral Theology at New Brunswick Theological Seminary, New Brunswick, NJ.

Mark Stevens (Browns Mills, NJ) upon completing his fourth unit of CPE at Cooper University Hospital in Camden, NJ. He writes, "I am now working at Ancora Psychiatric Hospital as a Staff Chaplain, and I am teaching introduction to CPE to COGIC Ordination candidates in the New Jersey 1st Eccl. Jurisdiction."

Dr. Fred Ware (Washington, D.C.) upon being awarded a book grant, for the 2007-08 academic year, from the Louisville Institute. Dr. Ware's institutional affiliation, and proposal abstract are posted at the Louisville Institute's website: <http://www.louisvilleinstitute.org/secondary/ggrantpast.asp?id=3&year=2007>

## NEW MEMBERS

As is customary, we take this time to welcome all our new members and invite you to make your contribution to our COGIC Scholars Fellowship.

**Antipas Harris** (West Haven, CT) is in the D.Min program at Boston University. His area of study is Practical Theology with a concentration in Evangelism. He is currently working on his dissertation, "Re-envisioning and Re-shaping Pentecostal-type Ecclesiology for the 21st Century: Considering Case Studies from the African Christian Diaspora."

**Dr. Marvel McClain Parker** (Summit, IL) holds an earned Master of Divinity degree and Doctorate of Divinity degree from Grace Theological Seminary. She has completed additional study at the Harvard University Divinity School Summer Leadership Institute focusing in Community Economic Development Leadership. Dr. Parker is author of the book, *Breaking the Silence*.

**Noreen Pettaway** (Philadelphia, PA) is a seminarian in the Master of Arts in Religion program at Lutheran Theological Seminary Philadelphia where she is concentrating in Systematic Theology.

**Joseph DeLawrence Williams** (Virginia Beach, VA) is a seminarian pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at Regent University. His academic interests are Pentecostal history in general, COGIC history in particular.

## In Memoriam

*Blessed are the dead...who die in the Lord. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labors, for their deeds will follow them. Revelations 14:13*

We mourn the passing of our Presiding Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson 1939-2007

On May 6, 2007, Dr. Bobby Gene Bean, M.Div., Ed.D. entered Eternal Rest. Amongst his several commitments he served as instructor of COGIC history and polity at C.H. Mason Seminary and on the Ad Hoc Committee of the COGIC Scholars Fellowship. He authored the book, *This is the Church of God in Christ*, a book rich in history on the denomination. He was a teacher, mentor, and a friend to many. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you have an interest in academics and are looking for a group of Pentecostals sisters and brothers to share your passion with, I highly recommend the COGIC Scholars Fellowship. We are a supportive academic network within COGIC encouraging the pursuit of scholarship recognizing that life in the spirit and life of the mind need not necessarily be antithetical. For more information contact Raynard Smith at [Rdsmith20@earthlink.net](mailto:Rdsmith20@earthlink.net) or write to COGIC Scholars Fellowship, 36 Dorothy Ave., Edison NJ 08837 or call (732) 767-1430.

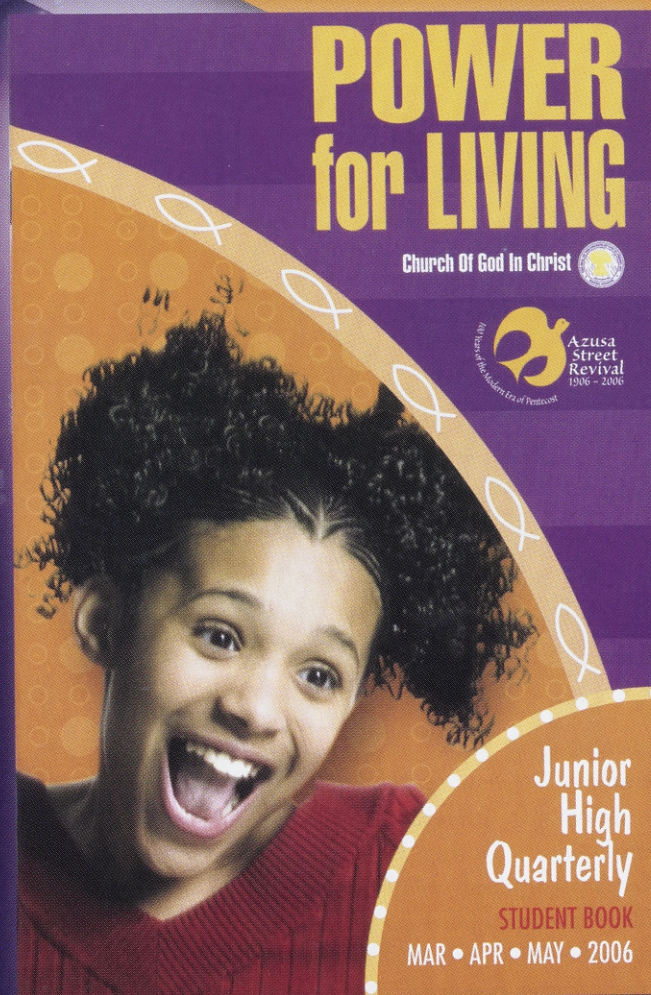
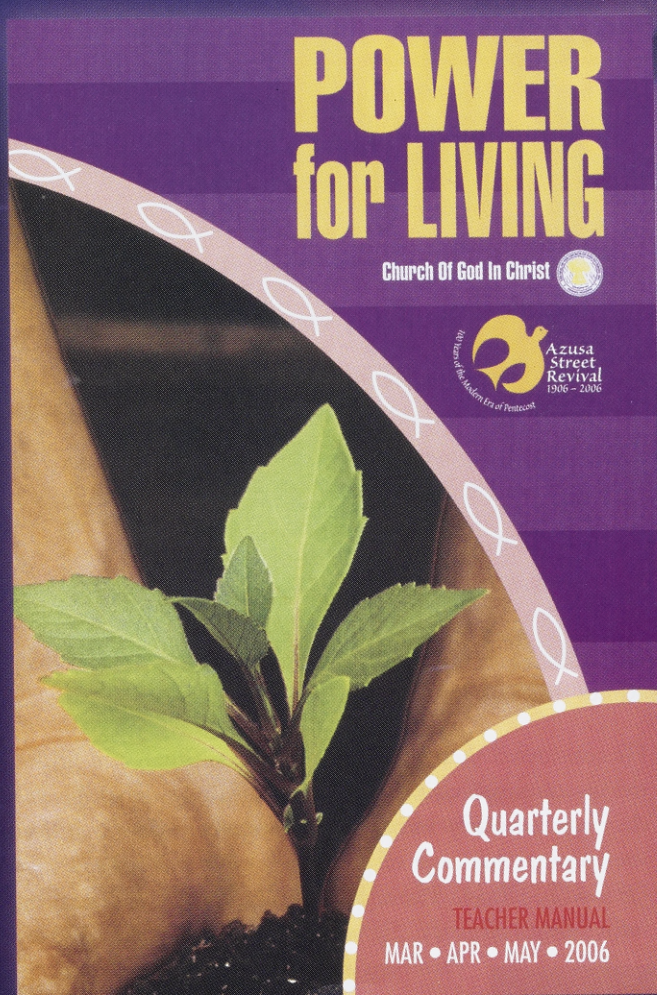
Membership dues are \$20 annually. Remember your dues offset the publication of the quarterly newsletters, other correspondence and programming, and entitle you to free copies of the papers presented at our academic forums.



100 Years of the Modern Era of Pentecost



Azusa  
Street  
Revival  
1906 - 2006



# Buy Church Of God In Christ Sunday School Curriculum

COGIC Publishing House

2500 Lamar Ave.

Memphis, TN 38114



## 901-744-0477



# New Pastor for Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ



Pastor Milton R. Hawkins, Presiding Bishop Charles Edward Blake, Sr., Mother Hawkins, Rev. Benjamin Hooks, and Bishop Jerry L. Maynard

Superintendent Milton R. Hawkins was appointed the Pastor of Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ by Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, prelate of Tennessee Fourth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. During the jurisdictional convocation, Bishop Maynard surprised onlookers with the appointment. He and Elder Hawkins agreed the appointment would be made during September 2007, but the appointment was made 6 weeks early. It was to thunderous applause that the youthful Hawkins, nephew of the late Presiding Bishop, accepted the appointment.

In an interview with The Whole Truth, Pastor Hawkins expressed himself about the new position and the vast possibilities the ministry at Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ will afford him. "I was awed and very happy that God would find me worthy of this task. Bishop G. E. Patterson was always my hero! Even as a boy there was a strong bond between us. I have always enjoyed his preaching and his gifted ministry. It was his preaching that brought me under conviction," said Pastor Hawkins.



He considered their relationship to be as Elijah and Elisha, where the master prepared the student for greater service. That relationship has definitely impacted the Superintendent's ability to face the coming challenge of guiding Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ. Pastor Hawkins said, "This is a worldwide and tremendous ministry. It was founded and developed by G. E.

Patterson and, one of the greatest challenges facing me is to keep it at a certain level. I truly believe...God will advance us to the next level." Pastor Hawkins was indeed glad that he served at his uncle's call. "Our relationship was strong and that relationship immensely aided in my development and the Bishop's confidence in my abilities," said Hawkins.

Pastor Hawkins commented about an abiding sense of what critical success is. He said, "I've been tutored by the man that founded this ministry. I was even raised in the house he lived in while he resided in Detroit. There on Chicago Boulevard I lived and was in part raised by my grandfather, Bishop W.A. Patterson." He believes his religious heritage and the culture of his home church has prepared him for the task ahead.



"The New Jerusalem Church Of God In Christ has been my foundation and proving ground. New Jerusalem is where I came up participating in the Sunshine Band, the Youth Choir, the Usher Board, the YPWW and on the Deacon Board as well. I know the spirit of this church. It was also responsible for the development of G.E. Patterson", proclaimed the pastor.

When asked about the appointment, he was thankful to Bishop Jerry L. Maynard. Pastor Hawkins spoke for himself, his wife, Catherine, their son, Joshua and stated that the appointment to Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ was a watershed event in their lives. "The saints of both Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ and New Jerusalem need to be commended. Their gracious support in this transitional period has blessed us to come through certain difficulties, especially those associated with relocation." Superintendent Hawkins further stated, "Bishop Maynard made the appointment in advance of our agreed upon time. Bishop G. E. Patterson informed Bishop Maynard of his desire for me to receive the appointment. How does one fathom the magnitude of those words?" Bishop Maynard stood before his jurisdictional convocation and said, "As prelate of this jurisdiction, I am empowered to make your appointment. I appoint you Pastor of Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ." Bishop Maynard made it clear that he and Bishop G. E. Patterson were in agreement about the appointment. It is widely reported that the late Presiding Bishop Patterson considered Bishop Maynard his confidant and friend, and confided in him as to who should be placed at Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ. "Our relationship has and continues to be friendly, saintly and of a maturing nature. I look forward to working with him in this jurisdiction", commented Elder Hawkins for the public record.

About his aunt, Evangelist Missionary Louise Patterson, Elder Hawkins said, "She will continue to be a part of this ministry. I will do all in my power to love and respect her. She is yet grieving over the loss of a faithful, loving husband and spiritual leader. Everything Bishop Patterson went through, she was there by his side."

Pastor Hawkins is also blessed with a well prepared spouse. He informed The Whole Truth, "My wife, Catherine is likewise a great First Lady with class, excellence of spirit and grace. She has been my support during other transitional periods. She is another source of strength and support that will help me in the endeavor."

Amid all the questions and statements about his pastoral appointment, Superintendent Hawkins said he expects a bright future for Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ Ministries. "I believe that God has placed me here. Furthermore, God will equip us (the Church) to go to the next level. I personally want to add ministries and expand those existing ministries in numerous ways", said the thoughtful pastor. ☪

100 YEARS CELEBRATION

100th Annual  
Church of God in Christ  
HOLY CONVOCATION

International Holy  
Convocation  
November 5-13, 2007

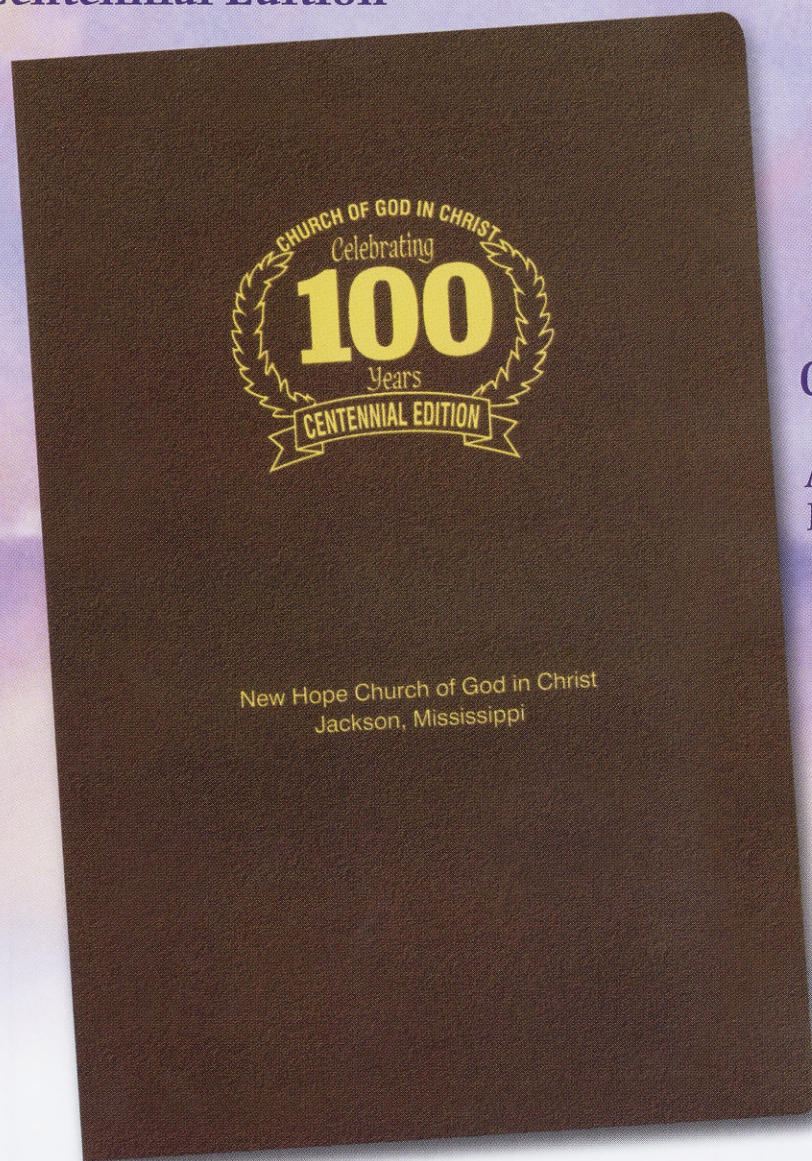


# Introducing The New

## Church Of God In Christ Discipleship Bible

### Centennial Edition

Celebrating 100 Years



### COGIC Centennial Bible

An effective tool for equipping COGIC Believers to share their faith

Discover a valuable resource for new member orientation classes

Be empowered with a scriptural understanding of the COGIC Distinctive

Enjoy daily insight into COGIC Essentials with 52 weeks of Daily Scripture Passages

Personalize the cover of your Centennial Bible with the name of your church, jurisdiction or ministry.

Send To: COGIC Centennial Bible  
P.O. Box 22  
Memphis, TN 38101  
Call 1-800-947-9350

## COGIC Centennial Bible - \$44.95 (each)

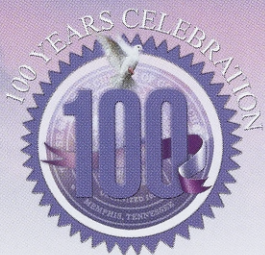
**In Case Lots (24 Bibles per Case)** The cost is \$39.95 (\$958.80 per case) and includes personalization of your Church, Jurisdiction, or Ministry name engraved on each Bible.

To reserve your Centennial Bibles, please enclose a \$10.00 reservation fee (credited to your order) and check the appropriate box below. *(Orders can be adjusted through April 1, 2007)*

- ☐ 1 Case (24 Bibles)    ☐ 2 Case (48 Bibles)    ☐ 3 Case (72 Bibles)    ☐ 4 Case (96 Bibles)
- ☐ 5 Case (120 Bibles)    ☐ 6 Case (144 Bibles)    ☐ 7 Case (168 Bibles)    ☐ 8 Case (192 Bibles)
- ☐ Check Here to reserve a single Centennial Bible - No Money Required







Order Form  
 Church Of God In Christ, Inc.  
 PO Box 22 • Memphis, TN 38101  
 Phone (800) 947-9350 Fax (901) 947-3607 • [www.cogiccentennial.org](http://www.cogiccentennial.org)

Order Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	ITEM#	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
	BIB-DP-001	*CENTENNIAL BIBLES (DEPOSIT ONLY)	\$10.00	
	DVD-PK-001A	CENTENNIAL DVDS PACKS (4CT)	\$100.00	
	DVD-EA-001	CENTENNIAL DVD (EA)	\$30.00	
	CAL-EA-001	2007 CENTENNIAL CALENDAR (EA)	\$12.00	
	CAL-PK-001A	2007 CENTENNIAL CALENDARS PACKS (5CT)	\$40.00	
	CAL-CS-001B	2007 CENTENNIAL CALENDARS CASE (80CT)	\$640.00	
	CAL-EA-002	2006 COGIC CALENDARS (EA)	\$5.00	
	CAL-EA-003	2005 COGIC CALENDARS (EA)	\$5.00	
			SUBTOTAL	
			**SHIPPING & HANDLING	
			GRAND TOTAL	

\* PLEASE NOTE: A minimum \$10.00 deposit PER CASE is REQUIRED on all Bible orders ONLY.

#### \*\*SHIPPING & HANDLING COST CALCULATOR

SUBTOTAL		SHIPPING/HANDLING		SUBTOTAL		SHIPPING/HANDLING	
\$0.00	-	\$12.00	\$2.00	\$300.01	-	\$400.00	\$40.00
\$12.01	-	\$30.00	\$7.00	\$400.01	-	\$500.00	\$51.00
\$30.01	-	\$50.00	\$12.00	\$500.01	-	\$600.00	\$60.00
\$50.01	-	\$100.00	\$17.00	\$600.01	-	\$700.00	\$71.00
\$100.01	-	\$200.00	\$33.00	\$700.01	-	\$1,000.00	\$90.00
\$200.01	-	\$300.00	\$34.00	\$1,000.01	-	\$2,000.00	\$121.00

#### ALL ORDERS MUST BE PAID IN FULL PRIOR TO SHIPPING

Method of Payment: ☐ Money Order ☐ Check ☐ AMEX ☐ DISCOVER ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable: COGIC Projects • PO Box 22 • Memphis, TN 38101



# The Church of God in Christ National Orchestra

Performs In Seoul, South Korea



← Bishop Dwight Green  
Pastor, Dr. Vernard Johnson

← Elder Henry Stephens

Pastor, Dr. Vernard Johnson, Dora Wilson, Henry Stephens

Dr. Vernard Johnson and members of the Church Of God In Christ National Orchestra recently traveled to Seoul, the capital of South Korea, as ambassadors for Christ. They were the invited guests of Bishop Dwight Green of the Korean Jurisdiction of the Church Of God In Christ. Supervisor Mildred Linzy and the Women's Department also helped to assist them while they were in Seoul. Dr. Johnson has been working with the National Orchestra since 1986. Under his leadership, the Church Of God In Christ has become the largest orchestra of any denomination in the world. While a full orchestra such as the New York Philharmonic or the Dallas Symphony performs with 60 pieces, on any Official Day in Memphis, Tennessee it is not unusual to see a 150-piece orchestra under the direction of the Maestro, Dr. Vernard Johnson.

Seoul has a population of 10,297,004 people. Dr. Johnson says that while there many souls were won to Jesus Christ. Dr. Johnson commented, "We went with the blessings of the President of the Music Department, Professor Iris Stephenson, who was in full support of our trip. While promoting the ministry of the National Orchestra the people were blessed with spiritual blessings." Elder Henry Stephens of Dallas, Texas put it this way, "I never have seen anything like this. Whenever Dr. Johnson played, the people just went wild. They were shouting, dancing in the aisles, singing and just glorifying God to the highest." Orchestra member, Dora Wilson traveled from Memphis, Tennessee. "It was just wonderful. I didn't want to leave. I had the time of my life," she said.

Johnson says that Bishop Dwight Green is doing a tremendous job in Seoul. The people are working and busy in the Jurisdiction trying to let the entire city know that the Church Of God In Christ is on the move for the Lord. Seoul has a burgeoning American population of 12,000, many of whom are military. "One of the most exhilarating things that happened is that the

General from the Army Base attended one of our services. That night, God blessed me to minister in music and then to preach. When I gave the invitation, one of the persons that came forward was a 12 year old boy. We later found out that he was the General's son," he said. John Ross of Houston, Texas stated, "The Orchestra sets the atmosphere and changes the attitude of the people. It makes people want to sing." That's what we saw in Seoul, Korea. People singing and praising God with the instruments.

Twelve years ago, it was Dr. Johnson's vision to have an orchestra in every Jurisdiction in the Church Of God In Christ, and an instrumental ensemble in every District, and now under his leadership Jurisdictional Orchestras are springing up everywhere. He exercised 'faith with works' and has been a blessing to the saints of the Church Of God In Christ and the body of Christ everywhere. He is the founder of an array of Christ edifying works in the Church Of God In Christ music ministry: AIM Convention Orchestra, the COGIC Chamber Orchestra, the COGIC Stage Band, the COGIC Marching Band, the Change A Life Scholarship (for musicians), the National Orchestra Competition and the International Praise Ensemble of the Church Of God In Christ. He also co-founded the Women's Convention Orchestra with Mother Emma Crouch and assisted in the development of the National Orchestra of the COGIC.

Dr. Johnson contends that the National Orchestra is one of the entities that distinguishes the Church Of God In Christ. "Other major Conventions have great preachers, great teachers, great youth departments, great choirs and great evangelism, but one of the few things they don't have is 'an orchestra'. Thank GOD for the National Orchestra," he says.

Dr. Vernard Johnson now resides in Kansas City, Kansas where he is the pastor of the rapidly growing Amazing Grace International Church Of God In Christ. ☪



# DRUGPLACE PHARMACY IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THE COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVE.

*Delivering a cost-effective solution to wellness right to your front door.*



CALL TODAY

----- 1-877-599-8050 ----->

and begin saving money on your brand name and generic prescriptions.

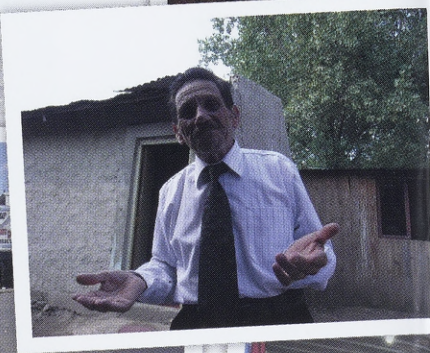
[www.drugplace.com](http://www.drugplace.com)

Your Source for Mail-Order Prescriptions





# Missions on the Move in Argentina



This year February 7th-14th, 2007, *Youth On A Mission* (YOAM) traveled to South America. As instructed by Dr. June Rivers, who is the COGIC YOAM's National President, Sister Judy Looney (team leader) and local Temple Church Of God In Christ Missions President, Missionary Jackie Aldridge, Missionary Earnestine Clemons and Elder Charles Aldridge traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina. This mission's trip resulted in a rich, rewarding cultural and spiritual experience for the team. The feeling was mutual for the Argentine saints. The proposed business at hand was to discuss and determine the needs of the churches in Argentina, and to find ways that YOAM could help with projects during the 2007 YOAM summer visit. Each year YOAM visits a place in need of spiritual, emotional and physical blessings of Saints, both domestic and abroad. If that need is to help build a church building, YOAM is there to assist. If the need is to introduce or structure a Vacation Bible School for the church, YOAM is there. Whenever the Lords calls and wherever He says to go, YOAM makes every effort to go.

When we arrived at Buenos Aires International Airport, Bishop Ceferino Segura and his wife Pastora Felinda Rodriguez were there to greet us. Our place of destination and abode was in a

quite modest area that reminded one of life in the 1950's or 60's. Imagine a mixture of suburban, urban and rural country areas all wrapped in one, with mostly unpaved roads; that is what we encountered.

Bishop and his wife are of Hispanic descent. Their Christian hospitality was infused with a twist of traditional Italian culture. They received us with warm heart and opened arms as brothers and sisters in Christ.

There were seven churches within Bishop Segura's jurisdiction. We visited, dined and had church worship services at all seven churches during the visit. The experiences we encountered showed us the remarkable intensity of God's hand at work. As members of the YOAM team, we had the opportunity, along with the help of a translator, to listen to the needs of the Argentine Saints, and their pastors. We offered prayer, shared the Word of Jesus Christ with locals during our seven day visit. Sister Looney, who speaks Spanish fluently, and Paula, our formal translator, both were major assets to the team every step of the way. The language barrier was overcome by natural interpretation.

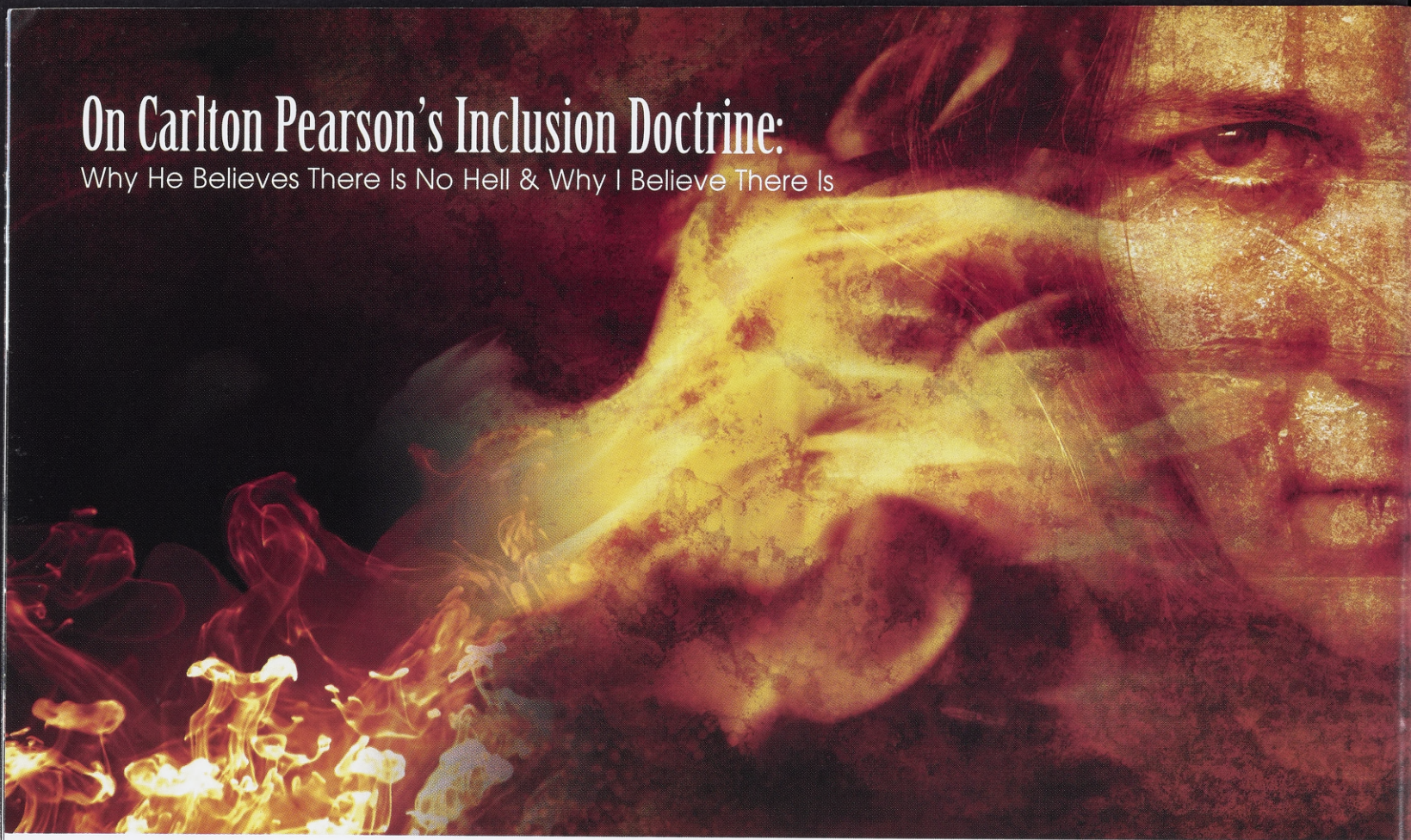






# On Carlton Pearson's Inclusion Doctrine:

Why He Believes There Is No Hell & Why I Believe There Is



A recent program on TV called DATELINE dealt on the subject of Hell, exploring the history and even testimonies of this horrific place of the eternally damned. For centuries preachers have preached about it and have warned of its reality-reserved for the devil, his angels, and every sinner who rejects Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. A recent survey revealed that more than 60% of Americans do not believe that there is a literal place called Hell. Of these more than 40% professed to be Christians.

Carlton Pearson was raised in the Church Of God In Christ. While attending Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Oklahoma under the tutelage of Reverend Roberts his ministry began to flourish. Due to his charismatic personality he became one of the most sought after ministers in the country. His church, Higher Dimensions Ministry and Family Center, grew to an estimated 6000 members. He later began to share podiums with tele-evangelists such as Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, and spoke at the COGIC Holy Convocation. He was invited to the White House by President George Bush and was asked to lead in the invocation during the memorial services commemorating the Oklahoma bombing victims.

Pearson claims that there was something always disturbing to him about Hell, especially since he says that his grandparents, who at one time were saved and evangelists for the Lord, backslid and died out of the will of the Lord. He was taught because they died in a backslidden condition, they went to Hell. This apparently disturbed Pearson knowing that

they were being tormented after giving God their lives but falling because of weakness. He stated to DATELINE correspondent Keith Morrison, "They had backslid... committed adultery had learned to love booze and must therefore be in Hell." Pearson said that he was angry with God over the idea that his grandmother was being tormented. "How could a loving God keep a person in this eternal torture chamber?" He asked.

## Gospel of Inclusion

Then one day, while watching television, he saw a report on the starving people in Rwanda, Africa. "And you saw these African people, mostly women and children slowly walking back trying to come home... and I'm looking at these people assuming that they are Muslims and probably going to Hell", Pearson said. Mr. Pearson says that God spoke to him, "Clear as a bell," to preach this new message that, "Hell is a place in life, and that after death everybody is redeemed." Hence, the idea of inclusion, that everybody will eventually be saved, even a man as evil as Adolph Hitler. Pearson's response when asked this question concerning the murderer of 6 million Jews was, "you think Hitler is more powerful than the blood of Jesus?"



Bishop Scott A. Bradley

The idea of inclusion is not new in that inclusion has been preached in one form or another since the 19th & 20th centuries, by men named John Milton, J. Drummond, Oswald Chambers and Thomas Watson. It stems from the idea that because Jesus died on the cross for all of



humanity all will eventually be saved. However, there is no scriptural basis for such religious philosophy. To preach such is to deny the Bible as the Word of God.

Mr. Pearson has also caused a controversy with his "enlightened" view of homosexuals. After a decline in his ministry, Pearson tells of visiting a church where homosexuals washed his feet as he wept with them. "The people who had experienced what I was experiencing they were pros at it. Gays are pros at being rejected", he says. Pearson obviously feels that it is no longer necessary for homosexuals to quit their ways and get right with God. In fact, Pearson suggest that gays should infiltrate evangelistic congregations. He was quoted in Charisma magazine as saying, "He hopes gay leaders would, 'build silent bridges' by joining the staff of 'heterosexual churches' and gradually convince them to accept the gay lifestyle." Pearson also was among the clergy that marched in support of legislation for gay rights.

### Mr. Pearson's Errors

As I research the various articles and TV programs surrounding Mr. Pearson, I have noticed that most of the quotations are what "God has spoken to him", none of which are backed or confirmed by scriptures, and some even contradictory to scriptures. To his own admission Pearson no longer feels that the Bible is the Word of God, but a book written by men about God. Pearson also stated, "the idea of Hell is an ancient philosophy prominent in biblical times, and reflected in biblical writings."

I have many problems with Mr. Pearson's ideas, the first that there is no Hell. If Jesus preached about it knowing it did not exist, that would make Him a liar. If Jesus was a liar, that means that the entire foundation of faith, hope and eternal life unravels and therefore all of the prophets that spoke concerning him were liars as well. If Jesus is the redeemer of mankind, as Mr. Pearson admits, then how can He save man if He was flawed? Jesus preached about Hell because He knew that it was a reality. There are over fifty references to Hell in the Bible and Jesus makes at least fifteen references to it.

The most descriptive being the story of Lazarus and the rich man. (St. Luke 16:19-31) The idea of telling this story simply as a parable ignores the fact that parables were based on true events.

In another parable Jesus tells the story of a farmer planting seeds. Although the parable of the sower might have been a comparative lesson, the facts are that farmers (sowers) do exist and they do plant seeds. The same can be said about the parable of the unjust judge. Judges existed, some were corrupt, as some are

now, and the woman who was persistent is typical of many down through the centuries that diligently exhaust the courts until they get satisfaction. These sightings are real even though the names and places are anonymous.

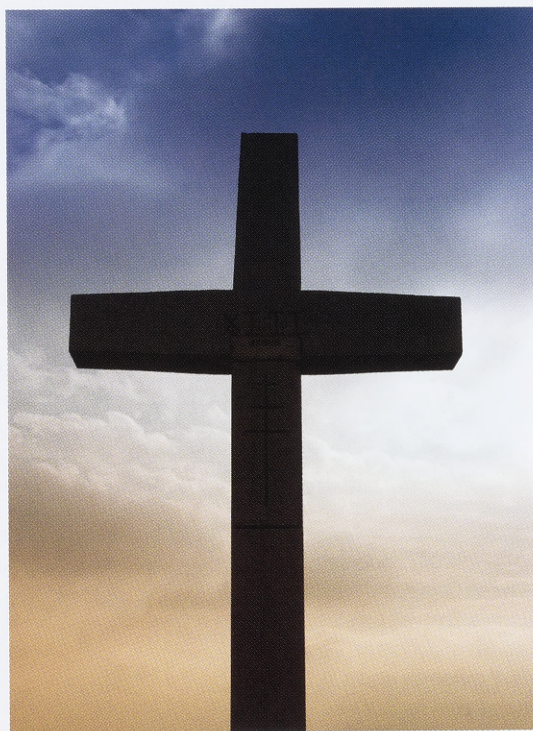
Down through the years the argument has been made that the story of Lazarus and rich man was just a parable to show how people of diverse lifestyles (i.e. rich and poor) will have their fortune reversed in the afterlife. But remember that the parables of Jesus compared to actual events. Dives was in Hell. He was tormented in the flames of Hell, was conscious, had all five senses, recognized Lazarus and Abraham, and diligently prayed for his brothers back on earth. Therefore, whether it was an actual account of men that were known by the disciples or two random souls that died, it was still based upon actual events.

Jesus' coming into the world was to redeem man from his eternal destiny of Hell because God saw the state of mankind and still loved him. He died that we might live but in order to live we have to accept what he did on the cross. To reject this is to reject the only eternal hope. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). If religion could have saved man then it would not have been necessary for Jesus to come. Man has always had religion. It should further be understood that God never "sends" men to Hell. It is the choice of the individual.

### The Bible Code

Secondly, Mr. Pearson challenges the validity of the Bible as the Word of God. In his own words he says, "...the Bible was written by men about God." He implies that because it is written by men, reflecting the attitudes and cultures of those times it is therefore flawed. This has been part of religious debates down through the centuries, "Is the Bible the Word of God or does it 'contain' the Word of God?" "The Bible has been tampered with, and therefore cannot be the Word of God." "The bible is simply a book written by men." All these statements and arguments have been presented to the world in an attempt to justify not taking the Bible literally or seriously.

However, I find that a number of technical advancements in the 21st century have validated the Bible as the only infallible Word of God. As I have studied the BIBLE CODE, I find the accuracy of prophecies as well as the hidden codes that read like today's headlines extraordinary as well as fascinating. Personally, I believe that the Lord allowed these things to come to light in this time to prove to the world that the Bible is the Word of God and cannot be compared to anything else. Even if one does not believe in the code, there still is a matter of trusting the ability of God to





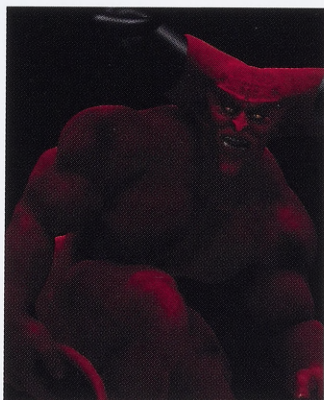
preserve His Word for the ages. The Bible tells us, "...no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation... but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" (II Peter 1:20-21). It is therefore a matter of faith that is solidified by one's relationship with God that makes His Word a reality. We believe the Bible because we have experienced its eternal effects in our lives. As one scholar said, "The Bible is not just a book of literature, it is a living organism."

## Hell as a Scare Tactic for Control

Pearson also states that Hell is used as a scare tactic to help bring money into the church. According to an interview done on 20/20 by Mr. Bill Weir on July 12, 2007, Mr. Pearson says, "If I say everybody's going to heaven, then I can't raise money from you to get me to keep people out of Hell."

I have a problem with this as well because most true preachers of the gospel, as well as lay Christians, know that you cannot "buy" your way into Heaven. Paying tithe and giving in offerings does not assure one of salvation. Further, it appears that by making such an accusation, Mr. Pearson has unfairly categorized all ministers as greedy and motivated only by the Sunday collections. He appears to forget that in order for any ministry to effectively do

the work of the Lord, it needs the financial contributions to further its work. It is believed that even his ministry was at one time taking in over \$60,000 per week. Although there are plenty of crooks and con men in ministry, to indict every minister as such is unfair and inaccurate. There are crooked lawyers, doctors, politicians, but to throw all in that category is untrue and unfair.



Finally, I am praying for Reverend Carlton Pearson as even this article is not to cast him aside or bury him, but to confront the error of his teachings that others would not be deceived. Hell is just as real as Heaven. Jesus warned us of it and all who reject the teachings and warnings of Christ are bound to go there. The Bible says, "It is not the will of God that any perish, but that all come to repentance." If Jesus indicated that repentance is necessary as an alternative to

perishing, then it is therefore necessary to repent of one's sins in order to be saved.

Scott A. Bradley is a Pastor, National COGIC Evangelist and Lecturer. He is an author and contributing writer to the YPWW topics and classroom helps. His most recent book is entitled, **MANHOOD: THE ORIGINAL PRIESTHOOD**. To contact him for speaking engagements (630) 730-2319 ☎

## THE COGIC DEBIT CARD PROGRAM Part D Medicare Prescription Drug Program

### BISHOP HAYNES

*"Vivian and I are excited about the prescription drug program...Penn Life has given us an opportunity to help service our senior citizens through affordable prescription drug plans along with providing a financial benefit to our local churches and community."*



### BISHOP WELLS

*"Sister Wells and I emphatically endorse the partnership between CogieCard Inc. with Penn Life Insurance. This will save our members thousands of dollars in out-of-pocket medical expenses and will also create a revenue stream for our local churches, as well as our national church; thus, empowering us to produce a more effective ministry."*



The CogieCard Program is helping to educate our churches and communities by providing a service to our senior citizens looking for health care. The cost of prescription drugs has become so expensive that the federal government created a program called "Part D Medicare" a Prescription Drug Program for all Seniors, 65 years of age or older who are eligible for Medicare A and B. This program was designed to meet the needs of seniors in our country.

The CogieCard Program wants to give our seniors comfort and safety by offering them the best prescription drug plan available. And not only are we helping them in selecting the prescription drug plan that meets their needs, but for every application approved the local church will receive up to \$15.00. Many of us are affiliated with Senior Citizen Homes and Home Health Care Program Agencies which will give us an opportunity to help other senior citizens in our community.

*The CogieCard Program –  
Unifying our church financially through products and services.*

  
**CogieCard inc.**



To enroll: 1-888-RX-PARTD

How the local churches benefit: 1-888-RX-COGIC



# Musical Dream Realized



*Bishop A.T. Moore*

Bishop A.T. Moore, Prelate of the Kentucky First Jurisdiction, in conjunction with the Kentucky First Jurisdictional Mass Choir has released "Churchin with the Saints". The bishop is a 95 year old native of Louisville, Kentucky and spiritual leader of hundreds who love him for his faithfulness. For nearly a century, he has had a tremendous impact on the lives of people both spiritually and professionally. Bishop Moore serves as Pastor of Moore Temple, named for his legacy. He has served there since 1940 and his tenure is distinguished.

Bishop Moore has a vast knowledge of music. He is a gifted instrumentalist and skillfully plays the guitar, piano and saxophone. He has dedicated his life and talents to God. He can add executive producer to his resume and celebrates with all the saints about the release of the "Churchin with the Saints" CD.

Louisville is known as the home of famed boxer Muhammad Ali, the Kentucky Derby and of course, the all American favorite Kentucky Fried Chicken. To this list add Bishop A.T. Moore and "Churchin with the Saints."

The CD project is a result of a live recording that was held in Louisville earlier in 2007. Where Bishop Moore entrusted the creative energy to his producer grandson, Austin Moore. With

true commitment, Bro. Austin effectively carried out his grandfather's vision.

Bishop Moore is a noted trailblazer in the Church Of God In Christ, where he is the oldest living bishop in the denomination. In 1947, Church founder, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason consecrated A.T. Moore as the Prelate over the Kentucky First Jurisdiction.

For the past 30 years, Bishop Moore has dreamed of creating a unique sound to convey the essence of his ministry as a Pentecostal preacher. His CD is a glorious presentation of foot stomping, hand clapping and sweet sounding praise. There is a mix of old time favorites as well as new contemporary tunes.

Featured on the CD are well know talents as Judith Christie McAllister, Lamar Campbell and Shervonne Wells, formerly with the Kurt Carr Singners. Bishop Moore said, "I can't believe after all these years the Lord has blessed me to live and to see this record finally happen. I just thank God and hope everyone enjoys it." ☪

"Churchin with the Saints" was released nationwide by New Day Distribution on August 7, 2007.





## Holy Women Bond Together in 57th Women's International Convention Mother Willie Mae Rivers and the Women's Convention/Crusade Declare God's Power to Next Generation

By Glenda Williams Goodson

Each year thousands of women from around the world come together for a time of refreshing among the women of the Church Of God In Christ. This year's focus "Holy Women Bonding to Declare God's Power to the Next Generation" embraced the general COGIC theme for the 100th Year Centennial "Celebrating a Glorious Past...Embracing a Promising Future." Pre-convention activities included a welcome dinner sponsored by the Florida Jurisdictions, leadership conferences for Supervisors and their assistants as well as the Annual General Leadership Conference. The musical on Sunday night was filled with anointed singing.

However, the twelve hours of fasting and prayer on Monday, May 28, ushered in a strong and mighty wind of prayer to permeate every session. Wave after wave of the Spirit's outpour caused some to cry, others to dance and all who were open, to know that God was on their side to deliver and destroy yokes of bondage.

Before ending the prayer Mother Rivers requested that the executive women and all those on the podium have words and the saints experienced an old school testimony service. Some of the seasoned women such as the eighty-three year old Women's Department Advisory Council, Chairperson Mother Artaska King stated, "This is the old time way...when I was 4 or 5 they made us fast for three days...right now I feel like running for my life." Mother Earline Strolger concurred saying that "prayer and fasting works" while other women on the platform testified to healing of cancers, spinal injuries and rheumatoid arthritis. When Supervisor Ruby Erwin of the Canada Jurisdiction sang "You Don't Know Like I Know," many of the older mothers broke out in shouting and dancing and the shouts and dances moved out into the audience. Supervisor Vanessa Gatlin of Louisiana stated that she would not take the consecration for granted saying "What a revival would take place if we take what has been deposited here back home!"



When Mother Rivers arose she shared a beautiful story. "The Lord woke me up about three weeks ago, He said 'whistle for the wind' and directed me to Psalm 1." As she inquired of the Lord to the meaning, He took her to Acts 2. He then had her recall picking peas in her childhood: "We had a fanner which was a round pan made out of straw and we would dump peas in the pan. The wind would blow the chaff away. Sometimes the wind wouldn't blow and we joined my grandmother whistling for the wind. Our prayers are like whistling and we're blowing [the chaff] away."

Delegates enjoyed the colorful Banner Parades on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights with Jurisdictions, Auxiliaries and Units marching, representing all states and the far corners of the world. Although Jurisdictions such as Germany were represented with many auxiliaries, the Ushers, Greeters and Bishop's Wives had a large showing. Even Mickey and Minnie came to greet the women. Presiding Bishop Charles Blake and President Rivers joined the festivities and took photos with the Disneyland favorites. Supervisor Mary Tucker and the Special Projects Committee presented thousands of dollars in scholarships to students in trade schools, vocational schools and colleges.

Before presenting Mother Rivers to speak on Tuesday, former First Lady Mrs. Louise Patterson gave greetings and thanked the saints for their prayers and support. She shared that individuals, saved and unsaved, from around the world sent greetings and informed her what Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson meant to them. She turned to the First Lady of the Church Of God In Christ, Mrs. Mae Blake with congratulations, adding, "I am here to assist you."

The sermonic selection, "I Don't Feel No Ways Tired," preceded President Rivers Convention Address. Honoring the Presiding Bishop, she stated that she had served with two international bishops and would support him and pray for him as her leader. She commended all those who were able to attend the prayer and consecration from 9AM to 9PM. "God met us...I pray that prayer services and consecrations would break out in the local churches. It's time for us to pray." She admonished her daughters to teach holiness to the coming generation. Taking her text from Acts 1:4-6, 8 she said that we should be able to tell someone else about Jesus. "The Holy Ghost inspires evangelism. He gives us motivation...not just to make us shout [because] each of us has a job to do to reach the world." Mother Rivers urged the

conventioners to let the world know that we are blessed because the Blesser lives within us. According to Mother Rivers, "Ministry is getting out and touching people. Dad Mason's intention was to get out among the people. Bishop Mason organized the COGIC in 1907 and four years later he appointed Mother Robinson to organize the women. God still wants holy and sanctified women. Let us bond and hold on to the rich legacy of holiness, because our world and community needs us." Explaining that it is God's Holy Power that has kept this church for 100 years, Mother Rivers said the Holy Ghost today must also motivate the church.

After the message, Second Assistant Bishop P.A. Brooks introduced the Presiding Bishop who commended Mother Rivers. "We've been blessed with a powerful word," Bishop Blake said and explained that he came in early to support her. He also wished to hear the necrology. "I especially wanted to hear Bishop G.E. Patterson's name...if he had not selected me [as First Assistant] I would not be the Presiding Bishop," he said and turned to Mother Louise Patterson telling her "we will never forget."



*Mother Willie Mae Rivers*

Each day symposiums were held with questions and answers following. These included "Survival Strategies for African American Women in Crisis" with astute facilitators tackling tough subjects such as Terminal Illness, Mental Illness, Single Parenting and Foster Care, Domestic and School Violence, Sexual Misconduct in the Church and Gender Identity (Lesbianism). The brothers were not left out and the Men's Sessions were held daily

with Superintendent- Justice Thomas Hammonds.

All Red Card Delegates joined department leaders, supervisors, bishops and their wives at the Shingle Creek Hotel and Resort to celebrate Mother Rivers' 10th Anniversary as General Supervisor of the Department of Women of the Churches of God in Christ. She was escorted in through a beautiful canopy created with white columns draped with white tulle by her youngest daughter, Ms. Angie Rivers who coordinated the celebration. Many tributes were given and among the most notable was that offered by her eldest daughter who stated that her mother could always feel her children and would render them service as only a loving mother could. Bishop Blake congratulated her and pledged that the two would work together for the great Church that they love.

Supervisor Diane Bogan reported that over 1200 women ages "49





## Read Bishop McKinney's exciting new book and discover tangible solutions to the ills that plague our American Society

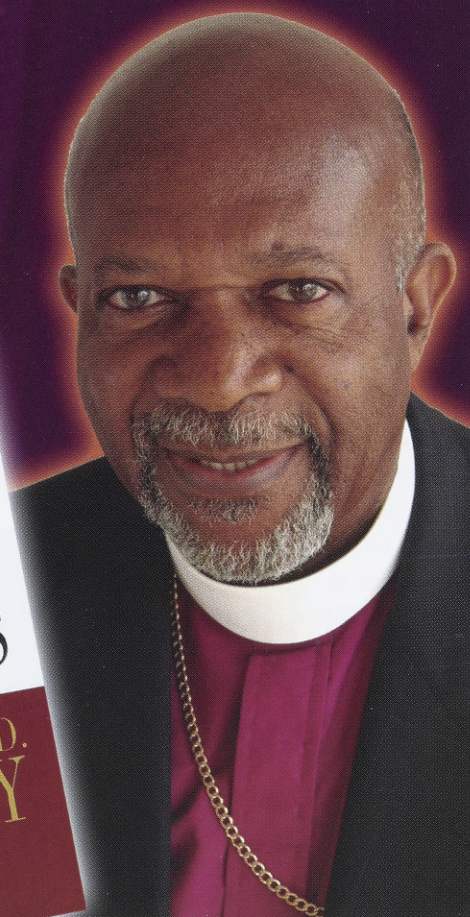
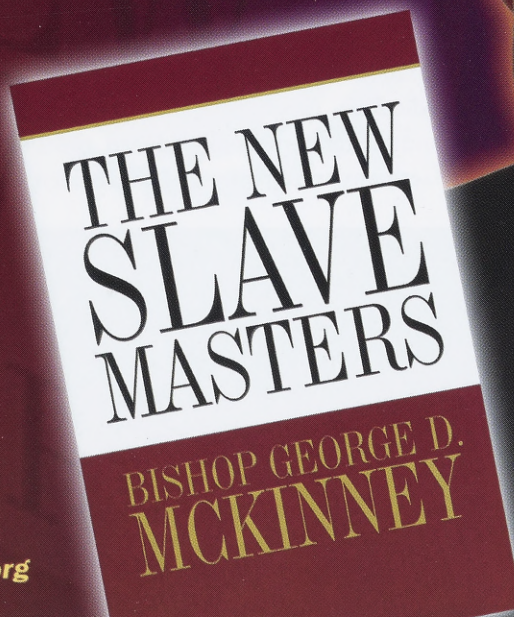
60 years of commitment to humanity through total faith in God

### "THE NEW SLAVERMASTERS"

In *The New Slavermasters*, Bishop McKinney asks the question: Are we really free at last? In his 224-page response, the "new slavermasters" become a powerful metaphor for the contemporary African-American struggle, as well as seemingly insurmountable cycles of destructive behavior that have enslaved people of all walks. The new slavermasters are drugs, materialism, racism, teen pregnancy, rage, gangs, pornography, instant gratification, and sexual promiscuity, among others.



[www.ststephenscogic.org](http://www.ststephenscogic.org)



and under" joined Mother Rivers at the 7AM dialogue on Wednesday. During the day session, International Marshall Supervisor Barbara Lewis gave space for a few of the ladies 49 and under to share testimonies. Sister Jan McGee of Dallas, Texas, Sister Jessica Russell of Wisconsin and District Missionary Anna Gainey of Dayton, Ohio gave powerful testimonies. One "49 and under" sister, Mildred Colby of Milwaukee, testified that two years after 1500 people attended her marriage ceremony, she was about to deliver her first child when her husband asked for a divorce. "I prayed and fasted...I didn't know what to do. I'd been adopted and didn't have a family to run to. My son is now 11, I've bought a house, a BMW and a truck." She says God can turn your darkness into light and is currently in school pursuing a law degree, maintains a 3.667 GPA and works for Bishop Darrell Hines. She testified and proclaimed that God will keep, strengthen and deliver you.



Delegates traditionally look for powerful teaching and preaching at the Women's Convention, and Convention 2007 was no exception. A highly anointed Mother Charlotte Eades blessed both young and old. God used her with a richness in a seasoned mes-

sage as she moved in the timing of what the Lord was giving her. Evangelist Shondell Douglas was also in the house. She took her

time and held the listeners with what the Lord had given her. God put his approval on it because the altar was full with those seeking and receiving healing and deliverance. On Friday, COGIC's First Lady Mrs. Mae Blake extended gracious greetings to Mother Rivers and the delegates as well as her special friend of over 30 years, Mrs. Louise Patterson. After honoring Mother Rivers and the work of the women, Presiding Bishop Blake stated that he too felt the loss of Bishop Patterson. Then he did what he is known to do all over the world, that is, preach the pure Word of God in a profound message urging the saints to keep their focus.

As the 57th Women's International Convention/Crusade drew to a close, delegates left with a commitment to go home and work together for the continued building of the Kingdom of God. ☪

Judith Phillips and Anna Gainey contributed to this article.



# St. Andrew Temple

A part of COGIC Heritage



The Harvey Church Of God In Christ was founded on the fourth Sunday in March 1924, by Deacon William Gibson. The first pastor was Elder Joseph Staples from Atlanta, Georgia. The church has been at its present location, 15046 Honore Avenue, Harvey, Illinois since 1924 and until 1960 it was the only Church Of God In Christ in the city of Harvey.

The church was started in a house located at 14717 Hoyne Avenue. St. Andrew started as a family based church. A few of the historical families are Watson, Davis, Latham, Wheeler and Bryant families. The past pastors were Bishop Cain Scott, Elders Andrew White, Senior and Junior, Elder A.A. Childs, Elder Howard D. Cantrell and Elder Andrew Williams from Greenwood, Mississippi.

Elder Andrew Williams served over 32 years until his death in May 1980. After the passing of Pastor Andrew Williams, the church was renamed St. Andrew Temple COGIC. Bishop Louis Henry Ford appointed Elder Samuel E. Debose as pastor. Elder Samuel E. DeBose was installed as pastor on the third Sunday in January 1981.

Each year Pastor Andrew Williams would attend the April Call Meeting and the Holy Convocation in November. Pastor Williams held revival meetings at least four times a year. During the Spring Break-the Youth Department would have charge. At that time the Youth Leader was Mother Clara Cantrell (Clemmons). She would always invite an out-of-town guest speaker. Under her leadership we were blessed to hear many great speakers from across the country. Many of these individuals went on to become great evangelists and leader in the general Church. Some of those speakers were Bishop Chandler D. Owens, Bishop O.T. Jones, Elder Clinton Mack, Mother White, Evangelist John Mills and Elder Johnson from Louisiana to name a few.

St. Andrew Temple has always had a strong family base and many more families added to the St. Andrew's number. Some of the families were the Foulks, Bridges, Walton, Adams, Cantrell, Lewis, Brooks, Hall, Hudson, Wooden, Johnson,

Williams, DeBose and Roseman. Many of the second and third generation continue to serve at St. Andrew Temple.

The Women's Department of St. Andrew has always been led by gifted, God fearing, praying women. The prior Church Mothers were Mother Mary Malone, Mother Vera Williams, Mother Mary Adams and Mother S. Joyce Brandon. The current Church Mother is Mother Thayer Baker. St. Andrew is a praying church that believes in and knows the power of prayer. In 1969, Mother Cleopatra Lloyd began the weekly morning prayer (9:00 AM-10:00 AM) Monday through Friday. The prayer has continued down through the years and the prayer warriors are available to whoever is in need.

The men of the church worked in the local factories. Many were craftsman who volunteered their time, skills and service to make the house of the Lord beautiful. These men brought their families to church where they experienced the grace of God, miracle healing, deliverance and entire families were saved. Seasoned spirituality has always earmarked St. Andrew Temple. In 1997, the church demonstrated its social progressive side when it sponsored a Senior Housing complex located in Phoenix, Illinois. St. Andrew Manor is a four story 56 unit single bedroom apartment building operated by the church. In February 2005, Pastor DeBose and the St. Andrew Temple Family dedicated a plaque at the Harvey Public Library in memory of the members who are deceased. During the past 83 years, St. Andrew Temple has produced many local and national leaders. The more prominent persons have been, Mother Eleanor Harrington, - 1st Assistant Supervisor of Women, 1st Jurisdiction of Illinois, former National Youth Leader; Mother Clara Cantrell Clemmons, former Vice President of the Youth Department Pastor James T. Watson and many pastors, doctors, administrators and teachers.

The official church history of St. Andrew Temple was written by Mother Elizabeth Bridges. St. Andrew Temple is a small church with a big heart under the leadership of Pastor Samuel E. DeBose. We stand as a beacon of light proclaiming the good news and showing mankind the way of salvation. ☺





# COGIC AROUND THE WORLD

## Chicago Pastor Builds Communities

CHICAGO—The driving philosophy of Dr. Michael Eaddy and the People's Church of the Harvest Church Of God In Christ is it is holistic approach to ministry. "We are in an inner city community and committed to helping people attain a higher quality of living." The church is involved in building bridges in a number of ways. Meeting ex-offenders at the door and assisting them in realizing goals to have a productive way of life is one way. Two hundred twenty-eight individuals went through the ex-offender-training program in 2006 and the program placed 30% of those individuals in gainful employment. "We are very excited about it," Pastor Eaddy said.

People's Church also offers opportunities for home ownership to first time home buyers through the People's Community Development Association of Chicago. "We are in the first of a three phase 72 housing unit project. We've already sold out the first phase, which consist of 36 units. This is home ownership for many of them for the first time in their lives." Church office 773.533.6877.

## COGIC Chaplain to Retire

TACOMA, WA—Major Marva Cromartie Nyema announces her retirement after 25 years as an Armed Forces Chaplain. A pioneering chaplain, Major Nyema received her Masters in Pastoral



COGIC Chaplain to Retire  
Major Marva Cromartie Nyema

Counseling from Mason Theological Seminary. Standing on Isaiah 6:8, Major Nyema has served untiringly in diverse areas of ministry. In her role as Chaplain she leads worship services and performs many religious rites including weddings, funerals and communion. Having received her foreign missions license in 1988 to represent the Church Of God In Christ, she was the last full time missionary sent to Liberia where she served for one year. Since then she has traveled the African continent many times for ministry. "It's not really about me doing ministry...but my focus has been to reach souls and bring more souls into the kingdom of God." To wish Major Nyema well in her transition to civilian life you may contact her at

360.491.6364 or by email: chaplain1973@aol.com.



## Church Forum on Abstinence - The Key for Sexual Purity

RALEIGH, NC—Purity, celibate, and holy are words that describe abstinence. Today, we live in a society where abstinence is used as an adjective and not a verb. More frequently, youth and young adults use “sex” casually and refer to abstinence as an obsolete term. For example, BET, a multi-billion dollar empire, supports this message by circulating messages that advocate safe sex by using condoms. The best solution to safe sex is abstinence. The Upper Room COGIC promotes abstinence annually to young teenage girls through a crusade known as the: Abstinence Crusade. A missionary in the church birthed the crusade through the ministry of Ladies of the Kings Court. One hundred to one hundred fifty ladies filled the sanctuary on a Friday night, supporting the theme: Abstinence Until Marriage. An evangelist from Hillside, New Jersey delivered a prophetic message, “God is Able,” from 1st Corinthians 10:1-13. Young teenage ladies were uplifted and empowered by receiving the importance and value of being holy and sanctified women of God.

The benefits for 1st Corinthians 6:13 were explained to those present: Purity for the spouse with no spiritual warfare and soul ties to another individual. Secondly, not starting a family prematurely. Thirdly, a person is able to enjoy the fruits of their marriage spiritually, physically, and emotionally. Leaders stated “It is imperative that we teach youth the best way to abstinence is no sex until marriage. Purity, celibate, and holy are words that describe abstinence.” Submitted by: Tracie L. Alston Upper Room Church Of God In Christ, Raleigh NC.

## Supervisor Artie Morrow Celebrates 59th Year of Ministry

PALESTINE, TX—On June 11, 2007, Bishop David Houston, the Texas Northeast II Jurisdiction along with family and friends of State Supervisor Artie Morrow celebrated 59 years of ministry in the Church Of God In Christ and her elevation to Jurisdictional Supervisor. The festivities included greetings from First Lady Lillian Houston. Church luminaries such as Dr. Rodney Atkins, Superintendents Reeves, Marvin Hawkins and Milton Algood recalled how Mother Morrow served God and people and “dug out” at least five churches in Texas. All six of her children, and her grandchildren, presented tributes. Musical guests included Elder Durwood Lockett of Ohio (whose rendering of “Overflow” transformed the banquet into a sanctified service ) and her friend of 70 years Mr. Otis Lockett, who played “March of the Priests in her” honor. Other guests included the Supervisors of Texas Northeast III, Mother Ophelia Evans and Mother Peggy Lee of Texas Northeast Central. In his address Bishop Houston urged listeners to continue to stand on the principles of holiness yet think outside of the box to tackle 21st century issues. Mother Morrow appreciated the organizers and guests stating that as she worked she had no idea she would ever serve as a Jurisdictional Supervisor. “When I was saved at Jarvis Christian College...I said I’m going to live in the holiness church...and do what the saints tell me to do.”

## NEW BOOKS AND MUSIC:

### New Resource Available

#### The National Church Mothers Board Manual

“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine...The aged women...teachers of good things; ...That they may teach the young women...that the word of God be not blasphemed.” (Titus 2:1, 3-5)

Mother Rosa L. Hawkins, President of the National Church Mother’s Board and her staff have developed The National Church Mothers Board Manual resource. It is now available at the COGIC Bookstore in Memphis, TN. According to Mother Hawkins, although the role of Church Mother was once prominent in the Church Of God In Christ, it had been steadily on the decline. She is happy to report to the saints that through the moving of the Holy Ghost, the hearts and minds of many pastors across the brotherhood have been touched to recognize the importance of this role in ministry. Currently the ranks are increasing as holy women are being elevated to work along side the Pastor and his wife. They are assisting in training and nurturing members and working closely with the Pastor in meeting the challenges facing members in today’s society. Mother Hawkins leads her staff in providing training for Church Mothers during the Women’s International Convention as well as during the Institute Hour of the Holy Convocation. Training topics have included the Titus 2 Woman, Establishing Peaceful Surroundings, Spiritual Mothering and Nurturing, Ministering to Families in Crisis, Recognizing Child Abuse, and Visitation Ministry.

Mother Hawkins and her training staff are available for local, district and jurisdictional workshops, retreats and other ministry engagements. To contact her call (810) 787-5624 or contact Missionary Cheryl Thompson at (810) 244-4283.

### Elder Jacque Releases Book

“In COGIC: A Century on Bended Knees,” the prolific Elder David Jacque urges the saints to remember that the Church Of God In Christ was birthed through prayer. Calling on the witness from his “spiritual granddaddy” Bishop C.H. Mason, Elder Jacque states, “It is up to us...to dream and be used by God” as he was. Bishop Mason made a conscientious decision to stay in the presence of God through prayer.

Elder Jacque, stating that Bishop Mason taught others the importance of the “bended knees,” cites examples such as Mother Dabney, an early convert to holiness who took on the mantle of prayer. According to Jacque “the biggest challenge facing the COGIC today is returning to the altar and prayer.” When COGIC reaffirms the power of the extended prayer, seeking God in the old-fashioned shut-in and consecration to God, sick bodies will be healed and the power of God will be revealed to this generation.



For information contact Elder Jacque at P.O. Box 618, Dimondale, MI 48821 or [davijacque@yahoo.com](mailto:davijacque@yahoo.com).

### Tried in the Fire

"Tried in the Fire" walks the reader through the life of Evangelist Gwendolyn Washington and shows how God can take a life of rebellion and transform it for the praise of His glory. Raised by sanctified parents in Memphis, and then relocating to New York in the 1950's, God blessed her with favor and she became the first African American female to represent thousands at the New York Telephone Company's union. But along the way, her penchant for good looking men caused chaos in her personal life. Following tough times in an abusive first marriage, she turned to God and experienced the excitement of her conversion experience and being filled with the Holy Ghost. Well written and easy to read, "Tried in the Fire" is a refreshing account of a former General Board member's wife's trials and victories both inside and outside the church world. The widow of the late, great prince of preachers, Bishop F.D. Washington, has a story to tell that readers will find both humorous and sobering. Write to: G.L. Washington Ministry, P. O. Box 667444, Charlotte, NC 28266 (800.484.6586).

### An Interesting Life

In praise of "God Don't Make OOPS," Evangelist Emily Bram Bibby stated, "Your life story kept me up until 4:30 AM it was so intriguing." The beginning of this autobiography gives a snapshot of life in the South from the eyes of a young girl born with ectrodactyly, a congenital disorder that left her with one finger on each hand and one toe on each foot. This occurred during a time when a physically challenged child was considered a disgrace to the family and often hidden from view. Sheer determination and favor from God caused her to travel a road sometimes filled with heartache. But in spite of those who placed obstacles in her way, she completed high school and successfully matriculated through college. After the birth of two daughters who inherited the gene (both now successful attorneys) she set out to climb the governmental ladder and her path to becoming an IRS official is a testament that God's grace is indeed sufficient. Contact her at P.O. Box 18717, Raytown, MO 64133 or call 816.358.8116.

### Pastor Writes COGIC History of Arizona

PHOENIX—Dr. Louis McNeal and Faithday Press have collaborated to add another chapter in the rich history of the Church Of God In Christ. "Fire in the Desert: A History of Black Pentecostals in Arizona" and "the Making of the Church Of God In Christ," shares the ups and down of people committed to God and their Pentecostal-faith enough to establish storefront churches as they settled in the west. Here you will find who Bishop Mason named the first overseer when he traveled to Arizona in 1919, the history of those pioneering overseers and female leaders, the movement to build churches and conflicts within the ranks. For information contact Faithday Press @ [www.faithday-press.com](http://www.faithday-press.com).

### COGIC Country Artist Releases New Project

GERMANTOWN, TN—Dr. Gennie Cheatham Chandler recently signed as a Country Gospel recording artist with Circuit Riders Records, the largest producer of Country Gospel, Christian Country, and Bluegrass Christian music worldwide. Her new project will be released the first week in November. She was also included on a Circuit Rider compilation country gospel CD released in June in eighty countries and two hundred and forty radio stations around the world. The Country Gospel Music Guild promotes her as the world's leading African-American, female, country singer/musician worldwide. On October 5 and 6, she is to perform at the Country Gospel Music Guild as the featured artist. Sister Chandler says, "Thank you, Whole Truth, for allowing me an opportunity to share my ministry with you and the COGIC community." Look for her booth at the Convocation and her ad in the 100th anniversary souvenir book. Contact her at P.O. Box 382114, Germantown, TN 38183-2114, 901.828.0048 or [gennierc@yahoo.com](mailto:gennierc@yahoo.com).

### Sara Jordan Powell Introduces New Project

TULSA—For those who may have wondered what music icon Sara Jordan Powell has been up to recently, ponder no more. Her recent project, "Experientially Yours," is perfect for quiet, reflective and contemplative moments. As always the listener experiences her one moment as cool and composed and delightfully soaring the next. For ministry engagements contact John Powell 918.494.7737.

### T. Lynn Smith Blesses Listeners with New Release

ATLANTA—We've seen her high energy when directing everyone from Sunshiners at Mason Temple to seasoned vocalists during Holy Convocation, now T. Lynn Smith belts out songs of praise and worship in her new release, "Just Praise and Worship." All of the songs draw the listener in to worship with a favorite, "God is Worthy of all Our Praise," being especially praiseworthy. For information and books contact Sherry White at 404.212.5085, [expressmimusic@yahoo.com](mailto:expressmimusic@yahoo.com).

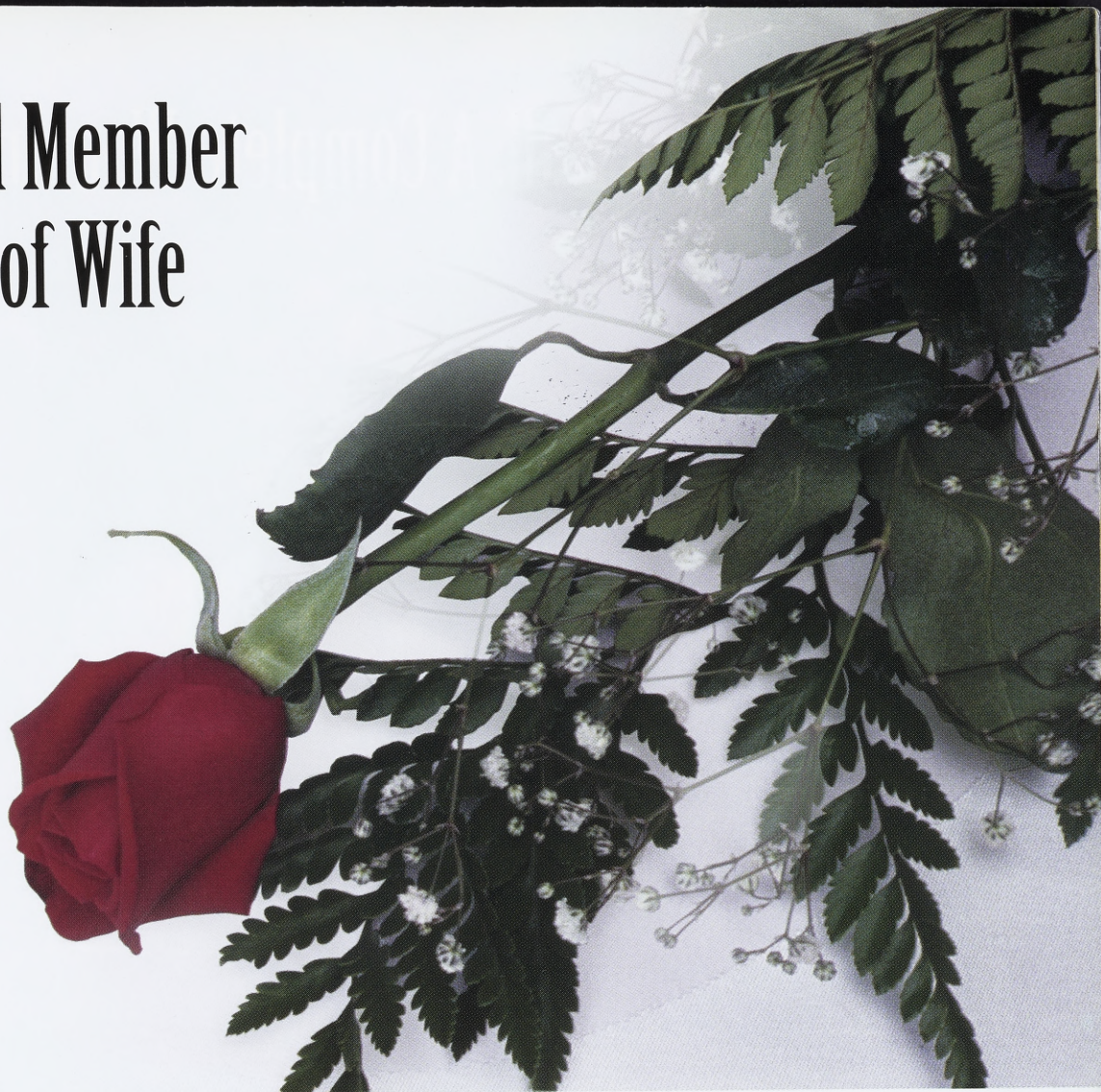
### SPECIAL 100TH ANNIVERSARY FEATURE

As the Church Of God In Christ celebrates her centennial anniversary, The Whole Truth, which has been an amazing historical voice, will highlight churches that were established over 50 years ago. Editor in Chief, Dr. David Hall and Mrs. Glenda Goodson will salute the kingdom work by profiling these pioneer churches throughout the year.

Please include the following information when you write: Name of Church, Address, Jurisdiction, Year Church Established, Founder(s), Charter Members, Input by Bishop Mason or other Pioneers, Current "outside the walls" ministry emphasis, Contact Name, Telephone, Email Address. ☺



# General Board Member Suffers Death of Wife



Peoria, AZ- Bishop LeRoy Anderson, General Board member has lost his lovely wife of more than sixty years. Mother Mary Louise Anderson was a dynamic and charismatic woman of vast knowledge and immense talents. The General Church has lost a beautiful person and saint of God, who was a soldier on the battlefield.

Our hearts go out in prayer and thanksgiving for a family so devoted to the purpose of God, and we know their loss is difficult. In this period of bereavement we recommend the family call upon the Lord for comfort.

The family sent the following information to The Whole Truth to inform the general Church Of God In Christ about Mother Mary Louise Anderson's life.

Mary Louise Anderson began her early education in the city of Hillsborough, New York and completed her Master's Degree at the University of Buffalo in Buffalo, New York. After her graduation, Mary Louise spent nineteen years teaching in the Buffalo, New York public school system. She was an outstanding teacher in Black History, Literature and English.

Brother LeRoy and Sister Louise built a successful ministry in the Church Of God In Christ. Their dynamic and compassionate pursuit of righteousness impacted the lives of countless persons. For over 55 years in Lackawanna and Buffalo, New York, as a pastor and pastor's wife, they helped to build the Western New York Jurisdiction #1. Mother Anderson was a prototypical pastor's wife.

Mother Anderson was an outstanding counterpart in ministry. She played the piano, sang songs of Zion, clapped her hands and taught God's Word. Mother Anderson was a constant encouragement to her husband. She was the resource of extra strength, insight and ability that made the ministry special. She prayed with and for him, and advised him in many things and areas of ministry. Mother Anderson became a teacher for Pastor's and Minister's Wives in the National Church, teaching in the General Convocation in Memphis, Tennessee and International Women's Convention. When it came to what was right, Mother Anderson would speak up to whomever she felt needed direction. Due to her rare penchant for honesty, Mother Anderson's entire family, friends and acquaintances dearly loved and appreciated her wisdom. ☪



# Gloria Joann Hall: A Complete Woman and Mother



Many things can be said about the wife of Dr. David Hall, Sr. Mrs. Gloria Joann Hall. Elder David and Gloria Hall were joined in unity on June 22, 1974 at the Saints Home Church Of God In Christ. She was the mother of two sons, David Allen, Jr. and Thomas Ervin; and a grandmother.

As the First Lady of the Temple Church Of God In Christ, she was a blessing to all the members of the church. Considered to be the perfect "Minister's Wife," Gloria Hall was blessed with a full life. Sister Hall had a compassionate touch with the members of the church; members would always appreciate how effective and wise she was. Gloria Hall worked tirelessly with her husband in their ministry.

With the general Church Of God In Christ, Sister Hall was one of the original staff members to develop the Church Of

God In Christ Accounting Office. She is a historic figure for her sacrifice and diligence in that founding organizational ministry.

Outside of the church ministry, Sister Hall was gifted with her hands. She was a wedding coordinator, caterer, and floral designer, not to mention her other specialties.

As a mother, Gloria Hall supported her children - she was the ideal "Tennis Mom" and encouraged her sons to succeed in tennis, educational pursuits and in the Lord. As a wife, she enjoyed all the time she had with her husband. They enjoyed their time together - they traveled, went out to the best restaurants and enjoyed looking as classy as ever!

She will be missed by family and friends. ☼



# THE COGIC DEBIT CARD PROGRAM



[www.cogiccard.com](http://www.cogiccard.com)

[www.cogiccardprogram.com](http://www.cogiccardprogram.com)

## EXTREME MAKEOVER -

*The CogieCard Debit Card is a new and improved program...*

**NO CREDIT CHECKS.....EVERYONE IS APPROVED**

The CogieCard Program was designed to unify our church financially. Each member that uses their CogieCard for all of their spending needs is joining forces to create financial strength, unification, and unprecedented collective purchasing power.

The Mastercard (Debit Card) that has been designed for our members has less fees and more benefits. We now have a Check Card to be used like any other check card.

- Free Online Bill Payment Service
- Free Direct Deposit of your payroll or government check
- Free Account to Account transfer

Free deposits at over 2000 Shared Network Credit Unions ([cuservicecenter.com](http://cuservicecenter.com))

Two Accounts come with this Program, your CogieCard Account and an Interest bearing Savings Account

### THE TEEN CARD IS NOW AVAILABLE -

minimum age -10 to 19 years.

This is an educational tool used to create financial awareness and responsibility. It is never too soon to lay the foundation for a secure financial future.



### NEW CHURCH CARD -

We now have the church card

-Every Church that signs up between now and November 31, 2005 will receive their CogieCard without paying any processing fee- just call 1-866-75-COGIC.

**EXISTING CARD HOLDERS-** if you have one of the old CogieCards, the visa card, you will receive a new CogieCard at no charge, but we must verify your address, all that is needed is for you to provide your name and address and sign the application your new card will be sent to you in seven to ten days. Sign up during the Holy Convocation or call 1-866-75-COGIC.

**NEW APPLICATIONS** - if you have never received or applied for the CogieCard, you may apply on line at [cogiccard.com](http://cogiccard.com) or call 1-866-75-COGIC.

The CogieCard Program needs coordinators and representatives for each of our local churches.

*Please call 1-866-75-COGIC for more information.*

  
**CogicCard** inc.

\* Cards issued by MMCU. QUESTIONS? Call 1-866-75-COGIC



# My Testimony

Gertrude Jones

I went to see my primary physician on May 31, 2005, after not feeling very well for some time. I felt there was something going on in my abdomen, and wanted to be checked out. After listening to my symptoms, she said it sounded like diverticulitis. She was going on vacation the next day and told me to get the first appointment with one of the other internist in the group, and sent me for lab work.

I did get an appointment with another physician for the next day. I went to see him feeling like I could hardly make it. He talked with me about my history, and let me know that my labs were way off, then scheduled me for a C-scan.

My daughter and I left for home after the C-scan, stopped by the store and by the time we arrived home they had already called and asked me to go to Swedish Hospital to be admitted. We went to the hospital and I was admitted. When the physician saw me, he told me he didn't know how I was able to walk into his office considering my condition. He said the C-scan revealed I had an abscess, most likely from the diverticula. They would try to take care of it with massive IV antibiotics. After a round of this, another C-scan was taken, and the abscess they had first seen hadn't changed, but there was a second abscess, which was

not communicating with the first one. It was pressing on my left ureter, so my left kidney was not functioning properly. I had to have a stent inserted to correct that problem. Now, they wanted me to see a surgeon to have the abscess removed.

Surgery was performed by Dr. Florence on June 21, 2005. The doctor was not prepared for what he found. He said he found lots of cancer; the bowel, rectum, and pelvic floor had many nodes involved. He said it was colorectal cancer. After recovery they wanted me to have chemo and radiation therapy. This was something I had said I would never have, but I gave in and consented to the therapy. I recovered from the surgery, went home and began the chemo and radiation on August 10, 2005. It was supposed to go for five weeks. Things went well for a few weeks and then I started to get really weak and nauseous.

On seeing my oncology doctor, the remaining therapy was cancelled because I was so ill. I was finally taken to the hospital on September 9, 2005, for twenty days.

I was taken back to the hospital on October 31, 2005 with a severe bladder infection. I was so sick I don't remember being taken to the hospital. My daughter said I was incoherent with



copious amounts of vomiting and diarrhea. Most of the time I was not aware of anything. I am told, many people came and I don't remember them being there. They told me I would acknowledge people when they came and seemed to know them, spoke with them, sang with them, prayed with them and praised the Lord with them. My sister said I spoke in tongues one day and then said, "I yield, I yield", then I said, "I'm healed, I'm healed." Even though I remember none of this, I am so thankful for the Holy Ghost in my life. He spoke through me, backing up His Word, "I'll never leave you, nor forsake you."

The doctors told my husband they had done all they could do, and when this happens, the patient is sent home or to another facility, if there is no one to care for the patient. Thank God I had family. I was sent home on November 11, 2005, still quite ill, on Hospice Care, with everything I needed to "keep me comfortable." The doctors and nurses were telling my family to give me up because I was suffering so much, and that I was not going to make it. They said I would not be here Christmas. I am yet in the land of the living.

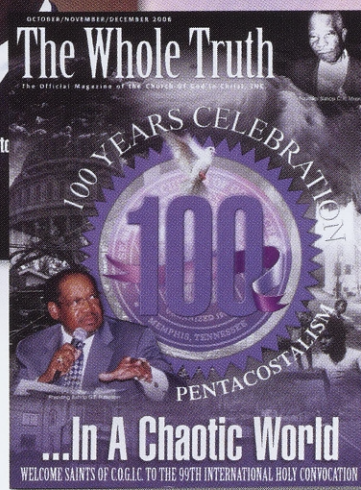
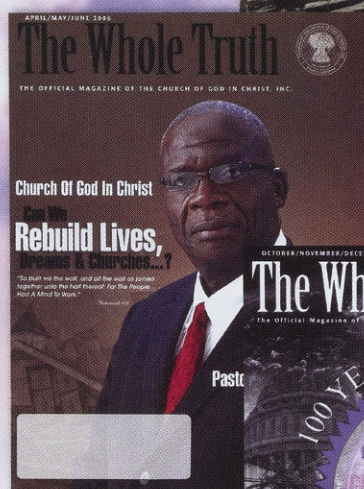
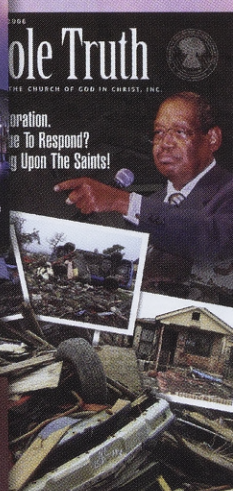
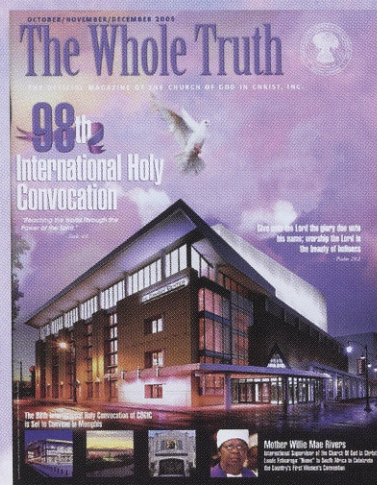
After my sister told me that I had said, "I'm healed," I thought, the Holy Ghost spoke that, not me. I grasped that and began looking for my healing. Here I was, completely out of it, not knowing I was in the world, and God brought me back. That was the beginning of the manifestation of His healing. Over the next weeks and months, I saw Him move in my body and mind every day. I had not eaten for weeks or even months. It was on December 1, 2005 that I began to desire food, and from that day I began to eat more and more. Soon I was eating normally.

When I visited my oncologist, I let him know that I understood their prognosis, they thought I would die! He said, "You were, your bowels had already shut down." He informed me that as a doctor he had never witnessed anyone as sick as I was, I returned to health.

I was under a hundred pounds when I was very ill and near death. My weight is about 128 pounds! Through it all, I felt no pain. They would turn my body and I would grimace and would cry out from my unconscious state. To this day, my doctors don't believe I don't have pain. God is continuing His blessing. Hallelujah!

I realize that God left me for a testimony of His greatness, that He's the "same yesterday, today and forever." Today I am able to do most of the things I did before, cooking, some cleaning, paying bills, etc. About the only thing I am not doing yet is driving long distances. I do grocery shop at the Wal-Mart and Safeway nearby. ☺

## Subscribe to The Whole Truth Today!



Call: 901-744-0477

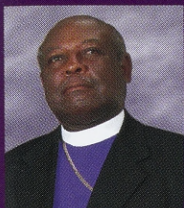




## Church Of God In Christ

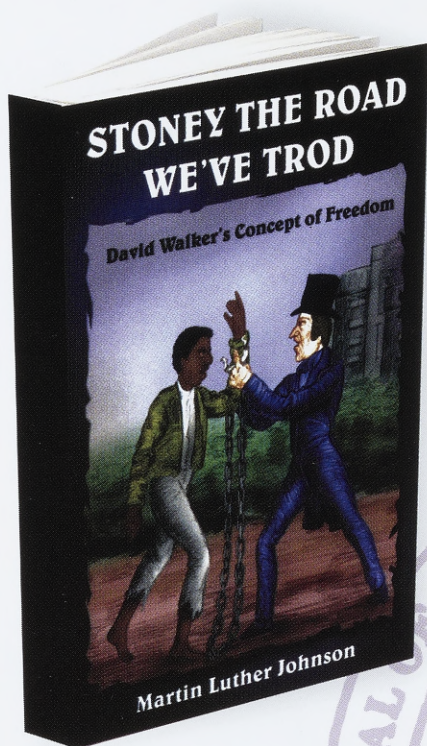
Church of God in Christ Episcopal Jurisdictional Leadership Development Seminar February 16-20, 1998





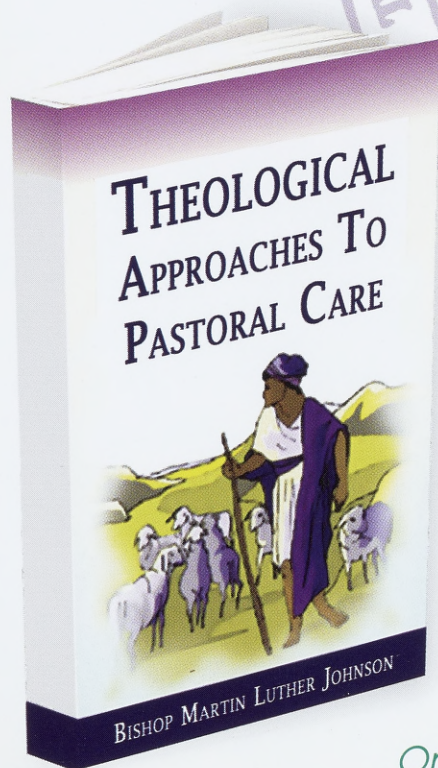
# Two Powerful Books On Sale Now!

By Bishop Martin Luther Johnson



## Stoney The Road We've Trod

Convinced that the final chapter about the life of David Walker had not been written, Dr. Johnson presents a constructive and provocative approach to the life and struggles of this man. His approach gets to the core of American racism and presents a challenge to future generations to pursue clarifications of, and answers to, the inconsistency between enslavement by white Americans and Christianity's message of Jesus Christ. Deeply rooted in this book is the urging to re-read Black history specifically, and American history in general, in an effort to arrive at a point of creative and positive dialogue. Because theological themes of racism, liberation, and social justice are pervading focusses of the work, one must get in touch with the Jesus of History in order to get a better grasp of the Christ of Faith. One must come to grips with who Jesus is and experience a deeper undergirding of the reality of Him in order to understand the meaning and purpose of total and complete liberation. Jesus Christ is tantamount to liberation and reconciliation of persons, but total reconciliation is predicated upon repentance of the persons, systems, and institutions responsible for the original alienation.



## Theological Approaches To Pastoral Care

Confident that a key ingredient in the pastoral counseling and pastoral care profession is hearing what is said both verbally and non-verbally, Dr. Johnson presents an innovative and constructive approach to counseling. His is an approach that is provocative, insightful, and holds new challenges and support to caregivers. Pastoral care is a person-centered, holistic approach to care that complements the care offered by other helping disciplines, while paying particular attention to spiritual care. The focus of pastoral care is upon the healing, guiding, supporting, reconciling, nurturing, liberating, and empowering of people in whatever situation they find themselves.

Martin Luther Johnson is the Jurisdictional Prelate of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, Church of God In Christ, New Jersey, and a retired Colonel from the United States Army. He is a graduate of Palm Beach Atlantic University; The Interdenominational Theological Center; The University of Central Texas; New York University, where he completed the course work for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Religious Education (ABD); the United States Basic Course and the Advanced Course; the Command and General College; and The International Seminary (Ph.D.).

Order Online At [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com)





**Circle  
of Light**

*Completing the Circle of Giving*

When you purchase Circle of Light vitamins and nutritional supplements, you are attending to your health needs while completing the circle of giving.

For every Circle of Light purchase made, a portion of the proceeds go to the Grace Fund, a charitable organization that helps acquire prescription medications for the underprivileged and uninsured.

Circle of Light. Taking care of your health and supporting the health of those less fortunate.

**1-877-599-8050**

**www.circleoflightvitamins.com**

**Circle  
of Light**